CITY HILIGHTS

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GUARANTEE HABBA

Stepping into the 4th year

Samarpane Sankalpa

Dedication of three years of service.
Rededication for greater service to people.

152492

Families to receive Hakku Patra/Documents/Official Orders

May 19, Tuesday
11:00 AM

Govt. PU College
Ground, Tumakuru

Three Years of Dedicated Service to the People by the Revenue Department

State Achievements	1,52,492 Beneficiaries from Tumakuru District
— E-Pauti Campaign — **14.39 lakh Pauti Khata achievement**	E-Pauti - **1,06,000**
— Darkhast Phodi — **Phodi Progress for 2.5 lakh beneficiaries**	Revenue Village Hakku Patra - **20,666**
	Darkhast Phodi and Phodi-Free Campaign - **25,826**

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah, being invited to the Samarpane Sankalpa by Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Home Minister and Tumakuru District In-charge Minister

Revenue Services are now
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Janaseveya Samarpane
by Hon'ble Revenue Minister
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Karnataka Police issues strict custodial death probe guidelines

Strict guidelines prepared under BNSS, with the State police chief warning of stringent action against officers found violating the rules during investigations into custodial violence and deaths.

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Police Department has introduced stringent procedures to curb incidents of custodial torture and deaths in police custody, with Director General and Inspector General of Police Dr. M.A. Salim issuing detailed investigation guidelines to ensure transparency and accountability.The new directions, framed under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), are aimed at preventing lapses in investigation, destruction of evidence and possible influence by local police personnel during probes into custodial violence

cases.According to the guidelines, if any allegation of torture or ill-treatment in police custody is reported, the jurisdictional police station officer must immediately register an FIR and submit a report without delay to senior officers.

The order also mandates the immediate seizure of CCTV footage from the police station or the location concerned whenever incidents of custodial violence or death are reported. Investigators have been instructed to preserve all electronic and documentary evidence to prevent tampering.In a major step towards transparency, the guidelines make audio and video recording compulsory for victim statements as well as postmortem procedures in custodial death cases. Officials said this would help ensure credibility in investigations and reduce the possibility of manipulation of evidence.

The DGP has further directed that once such cases are transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), investigators should not rely solely on station records and case diaries maintained earlier by local police. Instead, CID officers must personally visit the scene of occurrence, independently verify the evidence and reassess whether procedures such as mahazar and seizure formalities were conducted properly.Another important provision requires prosecutors to obtain prior sanction from the competent authority before filing charge sheets against accused police personnel. The move is intended to ensure legal scrutiny while maintaining fairness in prosecution.

Police headquarters officials said the guidelines were issued to strengthen public confidence and maintain the integrity of the force by ensuring impartial investigations in sensitive cases.Dr. Salim warned that any violation of the new rules at any stage of investigation would be viewed seriously. He said officers responsible for lapses, suppression of facts or destruction of evidence in cases that tarnish the image of the police department would face direct accountability and strict legal action.The order comes amid increasing public scrutiny over custodial violence cases and is expected to serve as a framework for uniform investigations across the State.

QUICK READ

Civic body clears illegal Bakrid livestock sheds

BENGALURU

Ahead of Bakrid, the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) launched a special drive to remove unauthorised sheep and goat market sheds across its jurisdiction. Corporation teams cleared temporary sheds, tarpaulin enclosures, iron barricades and other illegal structures erected on public roads, footpaths, government land and along storm water drains. The operation was carried out jointly by officials from the animal husbandry, health and engineering departments along with police personnel under the supervision of BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar. In a statement, BNCC said several traders continued operations without permission despite prior notices. Illegal structures were dismantled using machinery, while some traders voluntarily cooperated with officials. Authorities said the drive was aimed at ensuring smooth traffic movement, maintaining sanitation and protecting animal welfare during the festival season. BNCC also warned of legal action against violators.

Two youths, minor held for robbing student

BENGALURU

City police arrested two youths and a juvenile for allegedly robbing a college student of his mobile phone and assaulting him in Ramamurthy Nagar. The victim, Dheeraj, a BBA student from Banjara Layout, was waiting for friends on Outer Ring Road around 3 am before leaving for Hoskote for biriyani. Police said the three accused suddenly attacked him and snatched his mobile phone. During the struggle, Dheeraj sustained a stab injury on his hand. Passersby alerted police and shifted him to a nearby hospital, where he is recovering. The arrested accused were identified as Bhuvan and Mithun, both 23 and residents of Janakiram Layout. Further investigation is underway.

Transport official robbed near Majestic

BENGALURU

Three unidentified miscreants allegedly robbed a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation official of two mobile phones and cash near Sangam Circle in the city. The victim, K. Mahipal, was walking towards his office at the KSRTC bus terminal around 5.30 am when the accused intercepted him near Majestic, police said. Threatening him, the trio snatched two mobile phones and a wallet containing cash before fleeing from the spot.

Woman booked for threatening real estate businessman in office

BENGALURU

A woman who allegedly barged into the office of a real estate entrepreneur in Bengaluru and threatened him over a property dispute has been booked by Kodigehalli police. The incident has created concern among local business owners after the complainant alleged that he was threatened with dire consequences and extortion demands.

According to police, the accused woman, identified as Sangeetha Ram, allegedly entered the office of real estate businessman Venkataraju in Sanjayanagar near Kothanur along with two unidentified men. She reportedly claimed to be the Karnataka Yuva Sena chief and president of a women's association.

Police said the trio created a scene inside the office over a land transaction connected to a site in Shivajinagar. Investigators learnt that Venkataraju had entered into an agreement related to the property, following which the accused allegedly demanded money and warned him against proceeding further with the deal.

In his complaint, Venkataraju alleged that the accused demanded ₹10 lakh and threatened him with serious consequences if he refused to comply. He also claimed that they warned him that 15 to 20 people would be gathered to attack and kill him if the money was not paid.

The complainant further alleged that the accused threatened to storm his office again and assault him if he approached the police regarding the matter. Fearing for his safety, Venkataraju later filed a formal complaint at Kodigehalli police station.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case against Sangeetha Ram and two others under relevant sections related to criminal intimidation, trespassing and extortion.Police sources said investigators are collecting further details regarding the accused and verifying their background and organisational claims. Officials added that additional legal action will be initiated based on the findings of the investigation.

DK Shivakumar has ability to become CM: Youth Congress chief

BENGALURU

State Youth Congress President Manjunath Gowda on Sunday strongly backed Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar for the Chief Minister's post, saying the senior Congress leader possessed the capability, intelligence and organisational strength required to lead the State.

Addressing a press conference at the KPCC office in Bengaluru, Manjunath Gowda said there was nothing wrong in party workers and supporters wanting Shivakumar to become the Chief Minister in the future."DK Shivakumar should become the Chief Minister. Why not? He has the ability and leadership qualities. The right time should come and when that moment arrives, he will become the Chief Minister," he said.Praising Shivakumar's contribution to the Congress organisation, Gowda described him as a grassroots leader who had built the party structure from villages to the national level. He also said

DK Shivakumar is a party stalwart who has strengthened the Congress from the village level to the national stage, says State Youth Congress President Manjunath Gowda.

Shivakumar was known for nurturing ordinary workers and giving opportunities to leaders from middle-class backgrounds."Elsewhere, leaders do politics only for their own families or children. But DK Shivakumar encourages people who come from ordinary backgrounds. Nearly 95 per cent of the leaders he has supported belong to middle-class families. I myself am an example," he said.

The Youth Congress leader also accused the BJP of attempting to politically target Shivakumar and trying unsuccessfully to attract him. "Many are trying to lure him, but it is not happening. He always stands by the Congress party and follows the party's direction," he added.Speaking on the alleged NEET examination paper leak controversy, Gowda launched a sharp attack on the Union government and accused it of failing students across the country. He alleged that the integrity of competitive examinations had weakened during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi."The NEET paper leak is a huge tragedy for students. Their future is being destroyed. We will stage a major protest on May 21 against these irregularities," he said.Gowda said Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar and Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala would participate in the agitation, while Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had also been invited.He further alleged that organised networks and coaching centres in parts of North India were involved in exam-related malpractices, including selling leaked question papers for huge sums. He criticised Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for not giving a satisfactory explanation regarding the controversy.Calling for stringent action against those involved, Gowda said there should be "zero tolerance" towards any mafia operating in entrance examinations and stressed that merit and transparency must be protected to safeguard students' futures.

Art for World Peace Programme Inaugurated at S-VYASA

BENGALURU

Dr. Vaishnavi Kuppuswamy KAS, Special Officer to the Chief Minister of the State, inaugurated a programme aimed at encouraging young minds towards art, culture and brotherhood at Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Sansthan (S-VYASA) University, Anekal, Bengaluru, under the theme "Art for World Peace". She also launched various cultural performances as part of the event.Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vaishnavi Kuppuswamy expressed hope that the programme organised by the university would successfully convey a message of world peace, which she said is the need of the hour. She shared her long-standing experiences in developing skills

across various art forms during her artistic journey. In particular, she elaborated on the significance and interpretation of Kapittha Mudra in classical dance and other art forms.The grand event witnessed the presence of S.E. Sudheendra, Chairman of Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board and Vice President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, Dr. K.N. Manjunath, Vice Chancellor of S-VYASA, Lakshmi Shreya Swamy of Zee Kannada's Sarigamapa programme, Dr. B.R. Ramakrishna, Pro Chancellor, President Dr. H.R. Narendra, Chancellor Dr. H.R. Dayananda Swamy, Karuna Madkam, along with a large gathering of students, parents and spectators.

KSRTC warns employees against strike, invokes 'No Work, No Pay' rule

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has warned its employees against participating in the proposed strike on May 20 demanding salary revision, stating that strict disciplinary action and salary deductions would be imposed on those absent from duty.KSRTC Managing Director Akram Pasha issued the warning in an official communication to transport employees and staff unions ahead of the planned protest.

The corporation directed all employees to compulsorily report for duty, stressing that public transport services should not be disrupted under any circumstances. Officials noted that KSRTC functions as an essential public utility service and uninterrupted bus operations were necessary for the convenience of passengers across the

State.The management also clarified that leave would not be sanctioned during the strike period except in unavoidable emergency situations. A detailed list of employees remaining absent on the days of the protest would be prepared, and wages would be deducted under the "no work, no pay" principle, the order stated.The corporation further warned that employees participating in the strike or remaining absent without authorisation could face disciplinary proceedings under service rules.Transport employees' unions have been demanding revision of salaries and improvement in service conditions for several months. Union leaders have announced plans for a statewide protest, alleging delay in addressing their demands despite repeated representations to the government. Meanwhile, KSRTC officials said arrangements were being made to ensure normal bus services if the strike goes ahead.

Street plays held to boost cleanliness awareness in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 initiative, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation organised street plays at key public locations across the city to create awareness about cleanliness, waste segregation, plastic reduction and water conservation.The awareness drives were conducted near Lalbagh West Gate, the KFC bus stop in Indiranagar and Church Street, drawing participation from residents, civic workers and volunteers. Through cultural performances and interactive sessions, officials highlighted the importance of maintaining cleanliness in public spaces and adopting responsible waste disposal practices.

LACK OF FUNDS

Translation projects stalled at Bhasha Bharati authority

BENGALURU

Several translation projects initiated by the previous executive committee of the Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati Pradhikara have come to a halt due to shortage of funds, leaving a number of completed volumes awaiting publication at the authority's office.Among the major projects pending publication is the Kannada translation of renowned philosopher Surendranath Dasgupta's acclaimed work A History of Indian Philosophy.

The multi-volume work was translated from English to Kannada by five scholars under the editorship of writer and scholar Prabhakar Joshi. In addition, 11 volumes of writings by historian, Gandhian thinker and researcher Dharampal were translated from Hindi and English into Kannada. However, despite the completion of translation work, the books could not be printed as the tenure of the executive committee ended before the publication tender process was finalised.The previous executive committee headed by former chairman Ajakkala Girish Bhat was constituted in October 2019 and its term ended in October 2022. Following this, the then BJP government appointed the Joint Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture as Administrative Officer for academies and authorities functioning under the department.Sources said the administrative setup that took charge later did not move forward with publication of the translated works. As a result, thousands of pages of translated material remained confined to files and manuscripts without being converted into published books.After coming to power, the Congress government constituted new executive committees for academies and literary authorities in March 2024.

Bank manager loses ₹2.48 lakh after calling fake customer care number

BENGALURU

A 32-year-old manager working at a private commercial bank in Channapatna, Bengaluru South, lost nearly ₹2.48 lakh to cybercriminals after contacting a fake customer care number while seeking a refund for a cancelled resort booking.According to police, the victim had booked a resort in Sakaleshpur through Agoda, an online travel platform, on May 6 by paying ₹19,000. Later the same day, he cancelled the booking due to personal reasons and searched online for Agoda's customer care number to claim a refund.The complainant told police that he found a number online and called it, believing it to be the company's official helpline. The caller allegedly confirmed that it was Agoda customer support and assured him that the refund would be processed.The fraudster then sent an APK file link and instructed the victim to install it and enter personal details, including his name and date of birth. The accused later asked for the victim's UPI PIN, but he refused to share it.

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The Truth Speaks

TUESDAY ▸ MAY 19, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 304 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS CH ABC Certified English Daily

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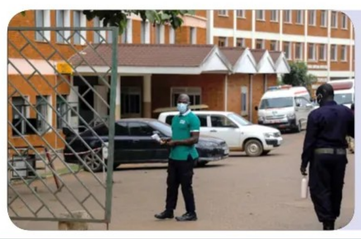
BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI

NDA hails Modi for receiving 'Royal Order of the Polar Star' P6



Ebola outbreak declared a global health emergency P7

First look of India's 'Queen of Speed' out

New Delhi: India's first bullet train image has gone viral online, with its futuristic saffron-and-white design sparking excitement ahead of the August 2027 launch. Indian Railways on Monday unveiled the design of the bullet train, which will operate on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor, with a large image on display at Gate Number 4 of the Rail Bhavan in New Delhi. The sleek high-speed train, designed for a speed of 280 kmph, marks a major milestone for India's maiden high-speed rail project. Once fully operational, the 508-km corridor will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to around two hours.

Gowda 'young' at 94, wants the 'mission' to go on

BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda marked his 94th birthday on Monday with a promise to continue championing the people's causes.

Despite his advanced age, Gowda, from his wheelchair, reiterated his commitment to remaining active in politics, underscoring his enduring zeal for public service.

A veteran leader from Karnataka, Gowda is regarded as one of the country's prominent grassroots politicians. Born in Hassan district, he served as Karnataka Chief Minister before becoming the Prime Minister in 1996. He also founded the Janata Dal (Secular) and continues to be active in politics.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers and several national and state leaders extended greetings to the JD(S) supremo, hailing his contributions to public, especially farmers, welfare.

Modi, in an X post, described Gowda as a leader with deep understanding of policy matters and commitment towards serving marginalised communities. Modi wished him good health and a long life.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Deve Gowda had made notable contributions to India's development, especially in safeguarding the interests of farmers.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah greeted his former colleague, wishing him good health and long life, so that he could keep serving the people.

Gowda's son and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy paid an emotional tribute, describing his father's political journey as one of sacrifice, struggle and dedication. He said Gowda's ideals would continue to inspire posterity.

VDS era begins in Kerala

Satheesan's induction as CM marks UDF return after a decade, bringing to reality the poll call 'Kerala will win, UDF will lead'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress leader Vadasseri Damodara Menon Satheesan, better known as VD Satheesan, took oath as Keralam Chief Minister at the Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, marking the return of Congress-led UDF to power in the south Indian state after 10 years.

Extensive arrangements were made for the swearing-in ceremony, where the Governor administered the oath of office to Satheesan and his Cabinet.

The Congress' 11 ministers – Ramesh Chennithala, Sunny Joseph, K Muraleedharan, AP Anil Kumar, PC Vishnunadh, T Siddique, Bindu Krishna, KA Thulasi, Roji M John, M Liju and OJ Janeesh – took oath on the occasion.

Five Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MLAs — PK Kunhalikutty, N Shamsudeen, KM Shaji, PK Basheer and VE Abdul Gafoor –were also sworn in as ministers.

Mons Joseph (Kerala Congress -Joseph), Shibu Baby John (Revolutionary Socialist Party), Anoop Jacob (Kerala Congress -Jacob) and CP John (Communist Marxist Party) are the ministers-designate from the other coalition partners in the UDF.

Former Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, leaders Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Maiden cabinet guarantees...

- Free bus ride for women from June 15
- New department for senior citizens
- Increasing the remuneration for ASHA

UDF govt kicks off with welfare blitz

Hours after taking charge as CM, the Satheesan-led UDF government announced a slew of welfare measures, including free bus rides for women and a dedicated department for elderly people. The maiden meeting of the 21-member cabinet has decided to hike the remuneration of ASHA by Rs 3,000 and that of Anganwadi workers, helpers, cooking staff in school and preprimary school teachers by Rs 1,000. Free bus rides for women and a new department for elderly care were among the five 'Indira guarantees' given by the UDF during the elections. Satheesan told reporters that the modalities of the free bus ride for women would be decided in the due course. The department for elderly persons would be the first of its type in the country. It would initiate schemes on the lines of the elderly support and care facilities in Japan. "A key yardstick of a civilized society is the life of elderly people. By improving the quality of life of elderly people, Kerala should be able to showcase itself as a highly civilized society," he added.

Jumbo fight turns deadly, woman crushed to death at Dubare camp

MADIKERI

A woman tourist was killed after a tamed elephant fell on her at the Dubare Elephant Camp in Kushalnagar on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Joysi (33). Her husband and child narrowly escaped unhurt in the incident.

As per officials, the family had come from Tamil Nadu on a tour. The trained captive elephants Kanchan and Marthanda suddenly began fighting while being bathed. Although mahouts tried to control them, Kanchan charged at Marthanda, causing the latter to lose balance and fall. The woman was trapped under the elephant and died on the spot.

Min orders probe

Karnataka Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre, condoling the incident, ordered a probe.

Maintain safe distance from wildlife: Khandre

Khandre noted that even trained elephants and wild animals can behave unpredictably, making it difficult to anticipate their behaviour. He instructed officials to prohibit tourists from touching elephant trunks, standing too close to them for photographs, bathing, or feeding them jaggery, bananas and other food items.

He asked authorities to ensure that tourists maintain a safe distance from elephants and other wild animals.

KARNATAKA'S WELFARE PUSH PEAKS IN TUMAKURU

as guarantee schemes cross ₹1.34 lakh crore expenditure

Tumakuru district is set to witness one of the biggest welfare distribution programmes organised by the Karnataka Revenue Department, with nearly 1.40 lakh beneficiaries scheduled to receive entitlement documents, welfare assistance and sanction orders during a mega state-level event on May 20.

The programme, which will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, is expected to bring together ministers, elected representatives, senior officials and thousands of beneficiaries from across Tumakuru district's 10 taluks and 11 urban local bodies.

Officials described the event as one of the largest public outreach and welfare distribution exercises undertaken by the Revenue Department in recent years. The district, which has a population of nearly 27 lakh, has emerged as one of the leading regions in implementation of the department's schemes.

The May 20 programme follows similar large-scale state welfare events organised earlier in Bengaluru and Mysuru and is being viewed as part of a broader effort by the Karnataka government to showcase the scale of implementation of its flagship guarantee schemes and revenue initiatives.

Under the programme, beneficiaries will receive title deeds, entitlement certificates, orders and benefits under multiple schemes, including E-Khata, the New Revenue Village Creation Scheme, Dharasu and Dhanchi initiatives.

Officials said the programme will not only focus on Revenue Department schemes but will also distribute welfare assistance under several other government initiatives to nearly 70,000 eligible beneficiaries across the district.

In addition, the Chief Minister is expected to lay foundation stones and inaugurate development works worth approximately ₹500 crore in Tumakuru district, covering infrastructure, civic development and welfare-related projects.

Deputy Chief Ministers, district in-charge ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, MLCs and senior administrative officers are expected to participate in the programme.

KARNATAKA'S GUARANTEE SCHEMES: MASSIVE STATEWIDE REACH

The Tumakuru event comes at a time when the Karnataka government has released updated figures detailing the statewide impact of its guarantee schemes.

According to Information Department data available as of May 16, 2026, Karnataka has collectively spent more than ₹1.34 lakh crore under various welfare guarantees and support programmes.

The schemes include Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, Anna Bhagya, Shakthi and Yuva Nidhi — all of which have become central to the State government's welfare architecture.

OVERALL STATE GUARANTEE SCHEME TOTALS

Scheme	Beneficiaries	Expenditure
Gruha Lakshmi	1,24,03,113	₹69,783.79 crore
Gruha Jyothi	1,64,41,897	₹26,115.55 crore
Anna Bhagya DBT	72,02,33,970	₹11,821.17 crore
Anna Bhagya Food Grain Distribution	30,88,837 metric tonnes	₹7,076.03 crore
Shakthi Scheme	726 crore passenger trips	₹18,943.67 crore
Yuva Nidhi	3,38,907 beneficiaries	₹950.57 crore
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		₹1,34,688 CRORE

MEGA BENEFICIARY DRIVE
Revenue Department Schemes in Tumakuru

Scheme	Beneficiaries
E-Khata Scheme	81,523
New Revenue Village Creation Scheme	20,666
Dharasu Scheme	6,301
Dhanchi Schemes	31,848
Total Beneficiaries Scheme	1,40,338

TUMAKURU STATE-LEVEL EVENT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CATEGORY	DETAILS
Location	Tumakuru City
Date	May 20, 2026
Direct beneficiaries	1.40 lakh
Taluks covered	10
Urban local bodies	11
Development projects	₹500 crore
Additional welfare beneficiaries	70,000

TALUK-WISE BENEFICIARY BREAK-UP

The district-level data reveals the extensive spread of beneficiaries across all taluks of Tumakuru district. Officials said the large-scale beneficiary base reflects the district's administrative outreach and the growing integration of digital and welfare-linked services.

Major Observations

- Sira recorded the highest overall beneficiaries at 17,623.
- Madhugiri and Gubbi also reported high beneficiary coverage.
- E-Khata emerged as the single largest component of the distribution drive.
- The Revenue Department's schemes have seen strong participation in both rural and semi-urban areas.

Taluk	E-Khata	Revenue Village	Dharasu	Dhanchi	Total
Tumakuru	5,641	1,368	50	4,516	11,575
Gubbi	7,828	4,743	809	2,314	15,694
Kunigal	9,110	648	529	3,610	13,897
Pavagada	8,872	1,239	853	3,618	14,582
Turuvekere	7,322	2,671	744	2,478	13,215
Koratagere	9,556	1,980	446	2,218	14,200
Madhugiri	9,563	2,307	273	3,814	15,957
Sira	10,585	1,891	1,908	3,239	17,623
Chikkanayakanahalli	5,028	2,049	435	2,918	10,430
Tiptur	8,018	1,770	254	3,123	13,165

QUICK READ

Gadag Rajput society plans Maharana Pratap event

Gadag

Gadag Betageri Rajput Society has decided to celebrate the victory day of national hero Maharana Pratap Singh on June 17, officials said after a meeting of office bearers. The programme will be held on the auspicious day of Jyeshtha Shuddha Tritiya. During the event, talented students from the community who passed SSLC, PUC and higher courses will be honoured for their achievements. Society president Ganesh Singh Byali requested eligible students to submit xerox copies of their mark sheets and register their names with Shri Shedsingh Jamadar. Organisers said the event aims to encourage students and remember Maharana Pratap's legacy proudly together.

Villagers urged to benefit from NREGA scheme

Karwar

Officials urged villagers to make full use of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme during an awareness programme held in Kavalagi and Kyathnalli villages under Mainalli Gram Panchayat in Mundagoda taluk on Monday. Development Officer Shivaji Vasambi said the scheme aims to prevent migration from rural areas by providing local employment opportunities. District IEC Coordinator Kiran Jotheppanavara explained wages, work facilities and equal job opportunities for women, senior citizens and specially abled persons. Officials also created awareness about e-KYC and face authentication attendance systems. Villagers were encouraged to join ongoing agricultural canal community works being carried out in Kyathnalli village actively.

Gadag invites applications for pulse processing units

Gadag

Applications have been invited from eligible beneficiaries in Gadag district for establishing pulse processing units to promote value addition and increase farmers' income, officials said. Farmers, farmer producer organisations, cooperative societies and registered institutions can apply under the scheme before June 15. The government will provide 33 percent subsidy up to Rs 25 lakh with Central and State funding in a 60:40 ratio. Beneficiaries must take bank loans and invest 15 percent of the project cost on their own. Interested applicants can submit forms at Assistant Director of Agriculture offices. Officials advised farmers to contact agriculture offices for detailed guidance and support.

Swamiji appears again police questioning at Harihar station

Swamiji appeared for interrogation after fresh summons amid heavy police security, while supporters claimed false implication and internal disputes

DAVANAGERE

Accused Vachanananda Swamiji appeared once again before the Harihar Rural Police Station for questioning in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.

Police officials said this was the second time the Swamiji had been summoned. He had earlier appeared on May 14, when he underwent questioning for nearly five hours and also completed a medical examination at a government hospital.

Following fresh summons, he reached the station again on Sunday for further interrogation. Heavy police security was deployed as devotees gathered near the station, expressing support for the Swamiji and claiming he was being falsely implicated due to internal disputes involving trust members.

The case was registered after allegations of child abuse were raised. The Child Welfare Committee had earlier received complaints from three boys and submitted its report to the Harihar Rural Police Station. Officials from the committee had also inspected the math premises and questioned the Swamiji.

During the inspection, authorities examined key areas including living quarters, kitchen, and dining facilities to verify the conditions in which children were staying.

Police sources said that further legal action is under consideration and another case may also be registered based on ongoing investigation findings.

Earlier, during his first appearance, the Swamiji underwent a medical examination at the Harihar Taluk Public Hospital under tight security arrangements. After the check-up, he briefly addressed devotees, stating that he respected the law and would cooperate with the investigation.

Investigators continue to gather evidence and statements as the inquiry progresses. Officials said the matter is being handled as per legal procedures under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, and further developments are expected after detailed questioning and review of evidence.

Karwar officials stress safe drinking water measures

KARWAR

Dr. Shashi said schools, colleges, hostels, and Anganwadi centres will reopen soon, stressing safe drinking water supply and regular quality monitoring by officials

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dileesh Shashi has directed officials to inspect drinking water sources and test water samples before the monsoon season to prevent contamination and protect public health.

He issued the instructions while chairing the District Water and Sanitation Mission Committee meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat hall in Karwar on Monday.

Dr. Shashi said schools, colleges, hostels, and Anganwadi centres would reopen soon, making it important to ensure the supply of safe and clean drinking water. He instructed officials to regularly check water quality in these institutions and take preventive measures wherever necessary.

He also stressed the need for proper coordination among departments, saying delays and lack of communication were causing inconvenience to the public and slowing development works. Officials were asked to work together closely for effective implementation of drinking water projects across the district.

The CEO directed Hescom authorities to provide electricity connections immediately at locations where Jal Jeevan Mission works have already been completed. He said uninterrupted power supply is essential for maintaining regular drinking water distribution systems.

Officials were also instructed to submit proper proposals with accurate information to the task force committee while seeking approval for pending works. Dr. Shashi said estimates for development projects should be prepared in coordination with all concerned departments to avoid delays and confusion later.

The meeting reviewed the status of rural drinking water supply, sanitation projects, and preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season. Authorities discussed measures to ensure continuous access to clean water in villages and public institutions during heavy rains.

Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Allah Bakhsh, Chief Accountant Anandsa Habib, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Executive Engineer H. Satyappa, and officials from various departments attended the meeting and discussed strategies for improving water management systems across the district before the monsoon begins this year.

After heavy rain caused flooding, Manjunath inspected affected areas, directing officials to clear drainage and ensure waterflow

Community participation key to dengue control drive: T. Lingaraju

KOPPAL

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. T. Lingaraju said that controlling dengue is the responsibility of everyone in society. He spoke after inaugurating a dengue awareness rally organised by the health department at the Old District Hospital premises in Koppal as part of National Dengue Day 2026.

He said the government has been conducting widespread awareness campaigns, rallies and inter-departmental programmes to prevent the spread of dengue before the monsoon season. He added that people should cooperate with health workers and follow preventive measures seriously.

Dr. Lingaraju said there is currently no specific vaccine or cure for dengue and chikungunya, but patients will receive proper treatment based on symptoms. He urged people not to panic and to visit nearby government hospitals for free testing and treatment when fever occurs.

District Surveillance Officer Dr. H. Nandakumar said dengue spreads through Aedes mosquitoes, which bite mainly during the day and breed in clean stagnant water. He advised people to cover water storage containers and avoid water stagnation around homes.

District VBD Controller Dr. Kumaraswamy Gonal said the pre-monsoon period increases mosquito breeding due to stagnant water, raising the risk of dengue, chikungunya and malaria. He stressed weekly cleaning of water containers, use of mosquito nets, and removal of breeding sites.

Awareness activities included a human chain at Ashoka Circle, a city-wide jatha with folk songs and pamphlet distribution, and larval surveys at the bus depot. Officials said community participation is essential to effectively control mosquito-borne diseases in the district.

Official pushes rural jobs under NREGA scheme

HAVERI

In Haveri, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Dr. N. Paramesh Hubballi has stressed the importance of creating assets under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme while also ensuring job security for poor wage labourers to reduce migration. He spoke after inspecting a ditch-draining work site in Devagiri Gram Panchayat during the Rojagara Day programme. He said the NREGA scheme is demand-based and aims to provide local employment through gram panchayats so that workers do not need to move away from their villages in search of jobs. He also highlighted that the scheme supports various individual and development works such as sericulture, pond construction, coconut and guava plantations, rose cultivation and cattle shed construction. Officials said these activities help improve rural income and long-term livelihood opportunities. On the occasion, Panchayat IEC Coordinator Girish provided detailed information about ongoing works under the scheme. Technical Assistant Krishna, BFT Prakash Naiker, panchayat staff and several wage labourers were present and participated in the programme aimed at strengthening rural employment support systems in the taluk.

District President highlights importance of literary gathering

KOPPAL

Preparations are underway for the second Koppal Taluk Chutuku Sahitya Sammelana, which is scheduled to be held in the last week of June at Kinnal village. Poet and teacher Srinivas Chitgara, who has been appointed as the chairman of the event, was felicitated by the Taluk Chutuku Sahitya Parishad at his residence in Kinnal on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, district president Rudrappa R. Bhandari said the literary conference aims to promote reading habits and cultural awareness in rural areas. He said Kinnal, known globally for its traditional handicrafts, is an ideal place for hosting such a literary gathering. He also noted that Srinivas Chitgara, a native of the village, has contributed significantly to Kannada and children's literature with around 25 published works.

Organisers said the event will focus on literature, rural issues, and public awareness through discussions and cultural programmes. They added that the conference will be celebrated like a festival with participation from local residents, youth groups, and cultural organisations.

Sirigannada Vedike State President G. S. Gonal said the event will be organised in coordination with leaders and youth from Kinnal and nearby villages. He said committees will be formed soon to ensure smooth planning and successful execution of the programme.

Srinivas Chitgara expressed gratitude to the organisers for entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the conference and said he would work to make the event meaningful and inclusive for rural literature enthusiasts.

Officials push welfare access for tribal communities

KARWAR

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla has directed officials to ensure that tribal communities in the district receive the benefits of all major government welfare schemes through special awareness and service camps.

He spoke while inaugurating a programme at the District Collectorate hall in Karwar as part of the Dharti Aba Jan Jatiya Utkarsha Abhiyan and Jan Bhagidari campaign aimed at reaching remote tribal populations.

Mulla said camps will be organised from May 18 to 25 in gram panchayats where tribal communities form the majority population. He noted that many government services and documents are now fully digitised, but several tribal families still lack awareness and access to these facilities.

He advised people to update their important documents and apply for welfare schemes during the camps. Officials were instructed to provide support for Aadhaar cards, ration cards, Ayushman Bharat cards, caste certificates, residence certificates, and Jan Dhan bank accounts.

The camps will also help beneficiaries access schemes related to PM Kisan credit cards, social security pensions, employment under MGNREGA, PM Vishwakarma loans, and maternal welfare programmes.

Authorities said awareness sessions on health and vaccination would also be conducted. Medical teams will provide information and health check-ups related to sickle cell anaemia and other diseases affecting tribal communities.

Officials added that grievance collection facilities would also be available through Adi Seva Kendras during the campaign period.

Special camps are planned in 21 villages under 31 gram panchayats across Haliyal, Bhatkal, Joida, and Mundgod taluks where tribal populations are high.

Mulla instructed departments to widely publicise the camps in advance so that more tribal families can participate and benefit from the schemes.

District Industrial Centre Joint Director Nagaraj Nayak, Food and Civil Supplies Department Deputy Director Manjunath Revankar, Welfare Officer Umesh, and other district-level officials attended the programme and discussed coordination efforts for the campaign.

Free legal aid centre opens in Haveri Jail

HAVERI

A free legal awareness and assistance centre has been launched in the outer premises of the District Jail in Haveri under the guidance of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. The initiative, introduced jointly by the Haveri District Legal Services Authority and the District Jail under the slogan "Mulakat Se Nyayatak", was announced by Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary Srishailaja H.V. Officials said the centre aims to provide free legal information and guidance to prisoners' relatives, visitors, inmates and accused persons attending meetings. Criminal advocate V.M. Nadagoudra has been appointed to assist at the centre along with part-time volunteers Chandrashekhar Malgi and Gangadhar Nave. District Jail Warden Vrishabh Khyathanavar will coordinate services. The centre will function daily from 11 am to 12:30 pm and 4 pm to 5:30 pm.

RURAL-EMPLOYMENT-CAMPAIGN

Agalakera Panchayat hosts awareness programme for labourers

KOPPAL

A Rojgar Diwas programme was organised at the Agalakera Gram Panchayat hall under the Information, Education and Communication initiative of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) to encourage rural workers to participate in employment activities.

Addressing the gathering, Agalakera Gram Panchayat Development Officer Basavaraj Baligar urged all eligible labourers to submit Form No. 6 and actively participate in wage employment work under the scheme. He said workers above 18 years of age from every family should make proper use of their job cards and complete the required formalities.

Baligar explained that labourers are entitled to wages of Rs 370 per man-day and should ensure they complete the assigned work to receive full payment. He also said workers should take advantage of the opportunity to secure up to 60 days of employment during May and June.

He noted that the earnings from the scheme could help families meet important expenses such as children's school and college fees, competitive exam costs, and household needs. He also stressed that all family members listed in the job card must complete e-KYC procedures before attending work under the National Muster Roll system.

Taluk IEC Coordinator Devaraj Pattar said the scheme aims to provide local employment opportunities and prevent rural labourers from migrating in search of jobs. He encouraged workers to use the full 100 days of employment available under the programme.

He also advised labourers to enrol in social security schemes like PMJJBY and PMSBY for financial protection.

During the programme, 121 Form No. 6 applications were collected from workers. Gram Panchayat officials, technical staff, and labourers participated in the event and discussed ways to improve rural employment opportunities.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Jagadish Gadarayya Nanjayyamath** having address at – **Near Kanti Circle, Pattanshetter Building, Ilkal** with **Ilkal Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Ground Floor, " Basavashree Complex", Kanthi Circle, Ilkal, Taluk - Hungund, District - Bagalkot - 587125, Karnataka** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Jagadish Gadarayya Nanjayyamath** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Jagadish Gadarayya Nanjayyamath** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Vijayamahantesh Angadi** having address at – **At/post: Lavalasar, Po:jalkamaldinni,TQ: Hunugund, Bagalkot** with **Ilkal Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Ground Floor, " Basavashree Complex", Kanthi Circle, Ilkal, Taluk - Hungund, District - Bagalkot - 587125, Karnataka** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Vijayamahantesh Angadi** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Yamanur N Saka** having address at – **Alampur Pet, Ilkal** with **Ilkal Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Ground Floor, " Basavashree Complex", Kanthi Circle, Ilkal, Taluk - Hungund, District - Bagalkot - 587125, Karnataka** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

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It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Yamanur N Saka** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **L Shamshad Begum** having address at – **House No. 164, Patakandakam Lane, Ballari -583101** with **Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **30, P.B. No.15, Bangalore Road, Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **L Shamshad Begum** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **L Shamshad Begum** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **M Prabhavathi** having address at – **W-O G. Ramachandraiah Advocate, B.S Compound, Gandhi Nagar, Kappagal Road, Ballary-583101** with **Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **30, P.B. No.15, Bangalore Road, Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **T Chandra Sekar** having address at – **No.41, Main Road, Parvathi Nagar, Bellary - 583103** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road, Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **T Chandra Sekar** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **B Kristiah** having address at – **Old Bhatri Road, Havambhavi, Ballari -583103 Or W No 25, Old Bathri Road, Havambhavi, Siruguppa Road, Bellary, Ballari-583104** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road, Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **D Virupaksha Reddy And D Sharavati Reddy** having address at – **129, Kolachalam Compound, Double Road, Ballari -583132** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **D Virupaksha Reddy And D Sharavati Reddy** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **D Virupaksha Reddy And D Sharavati Reddy** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **D Prakash** having address at – **Keb Office, Behind Radio Park Road, Ballari-583102** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **D Prakash** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **D Prakash** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Rajesh Y and Y Hema** having address at – **S-o.y. Malla Reddy, 3rd Road, Parvathinagar, Bellary- 583103** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Rajesh Y and Y Hema** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Rajesh Y and Y Hema** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **S Ishwara Bhat** having address at – **S/O Late Venkataramana Bhat, H No, M G 2 17, Netaji Nagar, Near Vasavi School, Bellary- 583104** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road, Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Shanmuka Gowd M** having address at – **S O. Chandra Shekar Gowd, Mahanandi Kottam, Bly, Ballari-583103** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No. 18, SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road, Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Shanmuka Gowd M** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Shanmuka Gowd M** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Sunitha Reddy** having address at – **Mathru Krupa, Ward No.1, Parvathi Ngr, Main Road, Nr. Govt Primary Schl, Parvathi Ngr, Ballari -583103** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Sunitha Reddy** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Sunitha Reddy** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **V Krishna** having address at – **C-O Voorakkara Lodge, 23-7, Gandhi Nagar, Ballari -583103** with **Sastry Nagar, Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **No.18 SLV Towers, Parvathi Nagar, Opposite Bala Hotel, Main Road Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **V Krishna** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

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NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Obalesha** having address at – **279,OLC Bridge Nagar Railway Station, Hagari (Rs) Parmadevanahalli Bellary583111** with **Bellary Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **30, P.B.No.15, Bangalore Road, Bellary - 583101** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Obalesha** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Obalesha** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Abdul Karim Savanur** having address at – **S-O Mahammadali, W. No.10, Sheelavantar, Oni, Dharwad- 580001** with **Dharwar Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Someshwar Heights, Opp. Old Sp. Circle, P B Road, Dharwad- 580001** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Abdul Karim Savanur** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Abdul Karim Savanur** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Imran Gove** having address at – **Plot No 272, 2 Floor, Banashree Nagar, D N Koppa, Dharwad- 580008** with **Hubli Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Site No.123, R D Baddi Mansion, Club Road, Hubli - 580 020** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Imran Gove** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Imran Gove** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

Shailendra Beldale launches seed distribution drive

BIDAR

The Horticulture Department organized a vegetable seed kit distribution program for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers at the MLA office in Bidar South constituency to support better farming income. Dr. Shailendra Beldale launched the programme and distributed seed kits, saying government schemes are meant to strengthen farmers and encourage horticulture crops for higher earnings.

Speaking on the occasion, he said both central and state governments are implementing farmer friendly schemes and urged farmers to make use of them. He said vegetable crops can give good income in a short period and farmers should adopt modern farming methods. He added that government support includes seeds, fertilizers and irrigation facilities to help rural farmers improve production.

Farmers were advised to combine agriculture with horticulture to increase profit and achieve self-reliance through diversified cultivation. The programme was attended by horticulture department officials and local leaders along with many farmers from surrounding villages. Officials said distribution of seed kits will help improve nutrition security and promote vegetable cultivation in the region. They also encouraged farmers to use government schemes effectively and adopt new technologies for better productivity.

The event concluded with participation from several department officers, agricultural experts and community representatives. It was highlighted that such initiatives will help strengthen rural livelihoods, increase awareness about modern farming practices, and improve income stability for small and marginal farmers across the region through continuous government support and community participation in agricultural development programs in the coming years ahead especially focusing on women farmers youth engagement and sustainable cultivation methods to ensure long term food security and economic growth in rural Karnataka across farming communities.

Jan Bhagidari campaign launched

CHITRADURGA

The "Jan Bhagidari – Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle" campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janajatiya Gram Utkarsha Abhiyan was officially launched in Chitradurga, with officials stressing the need to ensure that government welfare schemes reach Scheduled Tribe communities without delay or lack of awareness.

Additional Deputy Commissioner B. T. Kumaraswamy inaugurated the programme at the District Administration office hall, in coordination with the Zilla Panchayat and Social Welfare Department. He said that all departments must work responsibly to create awareness so that eligible beneficiaries do not miss out on government facilities.

He stressed that both the Central and State governments have introduced several welfare schemes for tribal communities, and it is the duty of officials to ensure that this information reaches the grassroots level. He called for coordinated efforts between departments to achieve full coverage of benefits.

District Scheduled Tribes Welfare Officer H. Diwakar said the campaign will run from May 18 to May 25 as part of an IEC (Information, Education and Communication) initiative by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The programme aims to provide awareness and direct benefits of welfare schemes to tribal populations.

He said special attention will be given to "benefit saturation camps" at village level, along with health check-up camps and awareness programmes on sickle cell anaemia. The focus is on ensuring that tribal communities receive timely healthcare and essential services.

Officials said the campaign is designed to promote schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Janman and DA-JGUA, which aim to improve living standards and provide basic services to remote and underserved communities.

Diwakar noted that unlike previous 15-day campaigns, this initiative has been compressed into seven days, making it more intensive and target-oriented. He directed departments including health, education, agriculture and animal husbandry to take services directly to beneficiaries.

He also instructed officials to document all activities, including photographs and videos, and upload them on the Adi Prasanna portal for transparency and reporting purposes.

Authorities appealed to all departments to work in coordination and ensure the campaign is successful by reaching every eligible household. The initiative aims to strengthen awareness, improve service delivery and ensure that tribal communities fully benefit from government welfare programmes.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

Chaluvarayaswamy warns of major fertilizer deficit

BENGALURU

Karnataka Agriculture Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy has said the state is facing a shortage of nearly 38 thousand metric tons of fertilizers ahead of the monsoon season, raising concern among farmers preparing for sowing activities. Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru, he said delays caused by international conflict have disrupted fertilizer supply chains across the country affecting Karnataka.

He informed that the state is currently facing a shortage of 14 thousand metric tons of urea and discussions are underway with the Central Government to ensure timely supply before the June sowing season. According to official data Karnataka received 30.05 lakh metric tons of fertilizers for the monsoon season but opening stocks of urea remain lower than previous years with only 2.80 lakh metric tons available. In April against a demand of 4.02 lakh metric tons only 2.54 lakh metric tons were supplied while in May out of 4.54 lakh metric tons demanded only 1.77 lakh metric tons have reached so far.

Chaluvarayaswamy said the government is promoting transparent distribution through QR codes and Fruit ID systems to ensure fertilizers and subsidies reach genuine farmers directly. He added that subsidies on agricultural equipment have been increased and support for micro irrigation projects has been expanded across the state. The minister also criticized opposition parties saying they were focusing on personal attacks instead of constructive suggestions for farmers and agriculture.

Officials also discussed the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises scheme aimed at supporting small food businesses and rural entrepreneurs. The scheme provides financial assistance in the form of credit linked subsidy of fifty percent up to fifteen lakh rupees for setting up or expanding food processing units. It is open to individuals farmer producer organisations self help groups cooperatives private companies and NGOs with eligibility beginning at eighteen years of age and basic documentation requirements.

Additional support includes seed capital loans for SHG members infrastructure subsidies and grants for branding and marketing to promote growth in the food processing sector across Karnataka. Officials said the scheme aims to boost rural employment and income growth.

QUICK READ

Chikkaballapura urges parents to enrol children in govt schools

CH NEW, Chikkaballapura Deputy Director of School Education Ramesh V has appealed to parents to enrol their children in government schools for the academic year 2026–27 as part of a public admission drive, officials said on Sunday. A parent-teacher meeting will be held on June 1 with participation from MLAs, alumni associations, NGOs and education experts. Authorities said enrolment efforts are underway actively and numbers are expected to increase significantly. Officials added that bilingual schools, scholarship transfers, talent programmes and improved infrastructure under government schemes are being strengthened.

Court sentences woman in KSRTC pass fraud case

CH NEW, Mandya A Mandya court has sentenced a 47-year-old woman for misusing a disability concession bus pass issued by Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), officials said on Sunday. The accused, Shruti A. of Appaji Gowda from Eraganahalli village in Mandya taluk, was a government employee who wrongly obtained and used the pass between 2014 and 2015. Police said her actions caused a loss of about Rs 46,640 to KSRTC. The East Police had registered a cheating case and filed a charge sheet under Section 420 of IPC. After examining evidence, the court sentenced her to one year rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000.

Power cut announced across Chitradurga

CH NEW, Chitradurga BESCOM has announced a power outage in several parts of Chitradurga city on May 19 due to urgent maintenance work on the 11 KV F-3 Bank Colony line under Nagar Sub-Division Unit One. Electricity supply will remain suspended from 10 am to 6 pm in Bank Colony, Alexander Layout, Sri Shaila Layout, Venkatadri Layout, Banashankari Layout, Basaveshwara Hospital surroundings, Chitra Don Bosco Degree College area, Venkateshwara Layout, Sai City 1 and 2, Challakere Road, SV Nagar and nearby localities. BESCOM Assistant Executive Engineer requested residents and consumers to cooperate during the scheduled maintenance work and temporary disruption in power supply services.

Chikkaballapura receives award for tribal event performance

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The Dharti Aaba Janajatiyya Gram Utkarsha Abhiyan and Janajatiyya Garima Utsav awareness programme was launched in Chikkaballapura to support tribal community development. Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar said the campaign will begin visits to villages with predominant Scheduled Tribe population and create awareness about government welfare schemes.

He noted that Chikkaballapura had received a Central Government award for its performance in earlier tribal development programmes under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Officials said 31 villages have been selected initially and more than 80 additional villages will be included for development under the scheme.

Praveen Patil said under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan large scale funding has been planned to improve infrastructure in tribal villages across the country. During the programme tributes were paid to Maharishi Valmiki and tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda at the venue by officials and participants.

Officials from various departments including Zilla Panchayat representatives attended the meeting and discussed coordinated implementation of the programme across tribal dominated villages in the district. They highlighted that basic facilities such as drinking water, schools, hostels, Anganwadi centres, cold storage units and marketing support will be strengthened under the initiative to improve living standards of tribal communities.

CM Siddaramaiah to launch multiple welfare schemes in Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will visit Shivamogga on June 1 to take part in a grand programme at Allama Prabhu Maidan where several government schemes, projects and inaugurations will be held. District Commissioner Prabhulinga Kavalikatti said preparations are underway for the event where Karnataka Public Schools programme will also be launched as part of education reforms. He said revenue department records are being cleared and beneficiaries will receive rights, pensions and social security benefits under various schemes.

The Chief Minister will distribute benefits including aid for disabled persons, workers, farmers and subsidy linked equipment and loans. He will also lay foundation stones and inaugurate development works worth crores across departments in the district. More than two lakh people from various taluks are expected to attend and arrangements for transport and food have been made. Officials said senior officers will supervise the programme and ensure smooth coordination across departments for successful execution.

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, Education Minister S. Madhubangarappa and other ministers and elected representatives will participate. The programme will highlight Karnataka Public Schools initiative aimed at improving government education infrastructure, digital learning and access for rural students across Shivamogga district. It is expected to strengthen public service delivery and bring various welfare schemes directly to eligible beneficiaries through a large public outreach event. Officials also said more than two lakh beneficiaries from different taluks will participate, and necessary arrangements for transport, food and security have been made to ensure smooth conduct of the programme.

District officials said coordination among departments will ensure successful execution of all development works, inaugurations and welfare distribution during the visit programme completion ensured.

Magadi pushes parents toward government schools drive

MAGADI

Government schools in Magadi are offering better learning opportunities and encouraging parents to enroll their children, said Taluk Education Officer Rajugowda at a programme held in the Government Boys' School premises. He urged parents to choose government schools, saying they provide quality education, modern facilities and strong support for student growth. The programme was organised under the 'Our Step Towards Government Schools' campaign by the Karnataka State School Development and Supervision Committee coordination centres from Bengaluru South and Magadi.

He noted that the KPS school in Kudur has 1,541 students and is providing good education with basic facilities. Government school students in the taluk have achieved 100 per cent SSLC results, which officials described as a matter of pride. Officials said steps are being taken under MLA H C Balakrishna to start new KPS schools in Magadi and Thippasandra to improve access to education. He added that the movement has already succeeded in Channapatna and will soon expand to Ramanagara, Kanakapura and Harohalli regions. Speakers said government schools now offer LKG and UKG, English medium classes and modern facilities like laptops, projectors, libraries and AI-based attendance systems.

They also said parents can reduce financial burden by choosing government schools that are improving with sports, meals, talent programmes and digital learning support. Leaders and education officials present at the event said the initiative will strengthen public education and help students achieve better future opportunities across rural Karnataka. Organisers appealed to parents to actively participate in the enrollment drive and support government schools so that children can gain quality education, discipline, and skills for a stronger and self-reliant future in Magadi region.

Students urged to gain skills beyond studies: Ravikumar

MANDYA

Students should build professional skills along with studies, said Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar at the closing ceremony of Mandya Women's Government College autonomous programmes and annual celebrations held at Vanaranga premises.

Students should build professional skills along with studies, said Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar at the closing ceremony of Mandya Women's Government College autonomous programmes and annual celebrations held at Vanaranga premises. He told students to study with dedication and also gain professional abilities to reach their goals and succeed in life. He said government will work on providing free IAS and KAS coaching in the district next year and also try to bring industries for jobs. He added that a software company will be inaugurated soon and it will create jobs for more than 100 engineering students in the district.

He also mentioned government plans for an AI City near Bidadi to generate employment opportunities for youth in future. Students were advised to use library resources, study well and become responsible officers who serve society. Dr. Meera Shivalingaiah spoke about education developing physical mental strength character and life values along with moral growth. She said education should focus on overall development of personality and self-realization through value based learning. The programme was attended by several professors, NSS officers, sports coordinators and college staff who supported the event. Students participated in cultural, sports, NSS, Scout Guide and Red Cross activities during the college annual function.

Organisers said the programme helped students showcase talents and encouraged discipline teamwork and leadership qualities. They said such events help students prepare for future careers and improve confidence and communication skills in society. The college management thanked all guests and participants for making the event successful and motivating students. Officials urged students to continue learning and contribute positively to nation building in future careers ahead always.

'Grihalakshmi scheme boosts financial strength'

CHITRADURGA

The first and overall 30th installment of the Grihalakshmi scheme has been released. District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman R. Shivanna Ganjigatte said the payment process has started through DBT.

About 3,75,487 beneficiaries in Chitradurga district will get benefit from this installment. The state government has released Rs 75,09,74,000 for this payment. The Grihalakshmi scheme provides Rs 2000 every month directly to women heads of families. It aims to support financial independence and improve self-confidence among women in both rural and urban areas.

Many women use the money for household needs, education, health care and small savings. Officials said the scheme has created respect and empowerment for women in society.

Protest held over examination issues

DAVANAGERE

A protest was held at Jayadeva Circle in Davanagere under the leadership of MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjuna against the cancellation of exams over alleged NEET question paper leak and rising fuel prices. It was stated that the central Bharatiya Janata Party government is taking decisions without understanding problems of students and middle class people. Protesters demanded immediate pro-people measures and reduction in prices to ease burden on families and safeguard students future.

They said continuous price hikes in petrol and CNG are affecting common people across the country. Speakers at the protest criticized the examination system uncertainty and said such issues are creating stress among youth preparing for competitive exams. The leaders urged the government to take quick action and bring stable policies that support education and economic relief for citizens. Police and local administration monitored the peaceful gathering at the circle without any incident reported. Organisers said the protest will continue if demands are not addressed soon by authorities. They appealed for peaceful resolution and responsible governance from officials.

Officials directed to ensure fair distribution system

MANDYA

District Level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Chairman Chikkalingaiah said Grihalakshmi payment for February 2026 has been credited to beneficiaries and March installment will be released within two days after treasury clearance.

Officials were instructed to take strict action against black marketing of rice under Anna Bhagya scheme and ensure legal awareness boards are installed at fair price shops.

Officials said 10,75,910 quintals of rice are being distributed from February 2025 to April 2026 and taluk officials must inspect quality before distribution to beneficiaries.

Vice Chairman K Hanumanthaiah said in the district 437 ration cards have been converted from APL to BPL while 281 applications are pending verification. Vice Chairman Shivanna said under Shakti Yojana more than 21,01,53,013 women traveled in the district from June 2025 to April 2026 and this generated significant income for KSRTC he also urged KSRTC staff and conductors to behave politely with passengers.

Chikkalingaiah directed officials to conduct awareness programs on Yuvanidhi scheme in colleges and install nameplates at schools and colleges highlighting government schemes. Officials present included Zilla Panchayat officers and Employment Exchange staff and the meeting emphasized effective implementation of guarantee schemes for public welfare in Mandya district.

Officials said the scheme continues to support women farmers students and transport users while ensuring transparency and direct benefit transfer across Karnataka and urged departments to strengthen monitoring and awareness at grassroots level for better service delivery and public satisfaction in all districts especially focusing on accountability efficiency and timely distribution of welfare benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

Tumakuru to host job fair on May 22

TUMAKURU

A large job fair will be conducted on May 22 at Ananya Campus near Town Hall Circle in Tumakuru, officials said on Sunday. The event is being organised by the District Employment Exchange Office, Government Industrial Training Institute and Ananya Institute of Commerce and Management. More than 60 companies will take part in the recruitment drive. Candidates aged 18 to 35 with qualifications including SSLC, PUC, ITI, diploma, pharmacy, nursing, degree, engineering and postgraduate degrees are eligible to attend. Applicants have been asked to bring biodata and educational documents. The fair will begin at 10 am. Officials urged job seekers to make use of the opportunity.

KC Veerendra Pappi Assures Irrigation Solutions

CHITRADURGA

MLA KC Veerendra Pappi visited Aimangala Hobli farmers' programme and assured early irrigation and drinking water solutions through Bhadra Upper River Project support. He said the project aims to bring permanent water supply and fill lakes in the region to support agriculture and daily needs. Farmers from Aimangala Hobli welcomed the announcement and said it could solve long pending water scarcity issues.

The MLA highlighted that technical works under the Bhadra Upper Bank Project are nearing completion and canal release will begin soon. Officials explained that water will be diverted through canals to several villages including Bharampura, K C Roppa, Adiralu and nearby areas. They added that pipeline works will also extend water directly to farmers' fields in coming stages. A senior leader highlighted the contribution of late Minister D Sudhakar in initiating the project and supporting irrigation planning. Participants urged authorities to name the canal after him in recognition of his efforts for farmers in the district.

Local farmer leaders said the irrigation system would transform agriculture and improve water availability across multiple villages. They appealed for quick government approval so that water distribution can begin before the next agricultural season. The programme ended with farmers expressing hope that long standing water problems would finally be resolved. Supporters of the project said improved irrigation would also reduce migration and strengthen rural livelihoods in Aimangala Hobli. Officials from irrigation department confirmed that inspection and technical clearance processes are being fast tracked for canal works.

Village representatives stressed the need for transparent execution and timely completion of all pending water projects. They said proper maintenance and monitoring of canals would ensure long term benefits for farming communities. Authorities assured that additional water storage and distribution plans are under consideration for future expansion.

QUICK READ

BCCI not covered under RTI Act, rules CIC

New Delhi

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has held that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is not a "public authority" under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, observing that the cricket body is neither established by law nor substantially financed or controlled by the government. Information Commissioner P.R. Ramesh, while dismissing a second appeal filed by Geeta Rani seeking information regarding the BCCI's authority to represent India in international cricket and select players for the national team, ruled that the statutory requirements under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act were not satisfied in the case of the BCCI. "The BCCI cannot be classified as a 'Public Authority' within the meaning of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act and the provisions of the Act are therefore inapplicable to it in the facts and circumstances of the present case," the CIC said in its order passed on Monday.

Delhi Assembly Speaker nominates 3 MLAs to DJB

New Delhi

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta said on Monday that three legislators have been nominated to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to strengthen its functioning and improve responsiveness to the public. "MLA Satish Upadhyay from Malviya Nagar has been nominated as Vice Chairman of the Delhi Jal Board, while MLA Manoj Kumar Shokeen from Nangloi Jat and MLA Ajay Kumar Mahawar from Ghonda have been nominated as Members of the Board respectively," said the Speaker. An order to this effect has been issued by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the statement said. Expressing confidence in the newly-nominated representatives, Gupta said their public experience and institutional understanding would contribute meaningfully to strengthening the DJB's functioning and improving responsiveness to public concerns.

Bengal enhances upper age limit for govt recruitment by five years

Kolkata

As promised in the Bharatiya Janata Party pre-election Sankalp Patra, the new West Bengal government led by the ninth Chief Minister, Suvendu Adhikari, has enhanced the upper age limit for recruitment to state government posts by five years. According to a press statement issued by the state government on Monday, the state Cabinet took the decision, and the state Finance Department has formally notified the revised age limits, which came into effect from May 11, 2026.

The revised limits shall apply to recruitments through the Public Service Commission, West Bengal. The maximum age shall now be 41 years for Group 'A' posts, 44 years for Group 'B' posts, and 45 years for Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts.

Bengal cabinet clears 7th Pay Commission, 'Annapurna Bhandar'

Under Annapurna Bhandar, women beneficiaries will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000

KOLKATA

The West Bengal cabinet on Monday approved the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission for state government employees and cleared several major welfare initiatives, including a new monthly financial assistance scheme for women and free bus rides for women on state-run transport services.

State minister Agnimitra Paul announced the decisions after the cabinet meeting, stating that the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission fulfilled a long-standing demand of state government employees. She said the issue was discussed during the meeting and the proposal received formal approval from the cabinet.

The minister also confirmed that the cabinet cleared the implementation of the 'Annapurna Bhandar' scheme, a monthly financial assistance scheme for women proposed in the Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto during the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections. Under the new scheme, eligible women beneficiaries will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000.

According to Paul, women already receiving benefits under the earlier Lakshmir Bhandar scheme introduced by the previous government led by Mamata Banerjee will automatically be transferred to the new Annapurna Bhandar system. She said the funds would continue to be directly deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts without requiring fresh registration for existing recipients.

The minister added that women who were not covered under the previous scheme would now be able to apply for enrollment under the new programme. A dedicated online portal for new applications is expected to be launched shortly by the state government.In another major welfare measure, the cabinet approved free travel for all women on state-run public buses beginning June 1. The initiative is expected to benefit thousands of women commuters across urban and rural areas of the state by reducing transportation costs and improving access to public mobility.Paul clarified that no immediate decision had been taken regarding an increase in the number of buses operating under the state transport network. She said the government plans to utilize the existing transport infrastructure for the rollout of the free travel scheme. However, she added that the chief minister informed the cabinet that additional electric buses could be introduced into the state transport system in the future.

The cabinet also decided to discontinue all supportive schemes and scholarships based on religious classifications under the state's Information and Cultural Affairs Department and the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department from next month. According to the minister, such benefits will remain available only for the current month and will officially end from June 1 onward.

Kerala Cabinet announces free bus travel for women

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first cabinet meeting chaired by Kerala Chief Minister V. D. Satheesan on Monday unveiled a series of major welfare initiatives aimed at fulfilling key election promises of the Congress-led United Democratic Front government.

One of the most significant announcements made by the new government was the introduction of free travel for women in Kerala State Road Transport Corporation buses from June 15.

The scheme was one of the major guarantees promised by the United Democratic Front during the state election campaign and is expected to benefit lakhs of women commuters across Kerala.

Chief Minister Satheesan said the initiative reflected the government's commitment to building a people-centric administration focused on welfare and social inclusion. He also announced the formation of a separate department dedicated exclusively to the welfare of senior citizens, describing it as the first initiative of its kind in the country.

The Chief Minister said Kerala plans to study Japan's elderly care system to develop policies aimed at improving support and healthcare services for senior citizens. A detailed review of the Japanese model is expected to be completed within two months. Satheesan stated that the treatment of elderly citizens reflects the values of a society and said Kerala aims to become a model state in senior citizen care.

'Additional announcements related to retirement benefits to ASHA are likely within next month'

The cabinet also addressed the long-pending demands of Accredited Social Health Activist workers. As part of another election commitment, the government approved a Rs 3,000 increase in their monthly honorarium, raising it to Rs 12,000. The Chief Minister added that additional announcements related to retirement benefits for ASHA are likely within the next month.

BRS demands Union Minister Bandi Sanjay's resignation

HYDERABAD

BRS legislators, senior leaders and party workers organized demonstrations in multiple constituencies across the state, raising slogans and carrying banners demanding the resignation or dismissal of the Union minister.

Protesters accused the Bharatiya Janata Party leadership of failing to uphold accountability in the case and called for a fair and impartial investigation.

In the Huzurabad constituency, BRS cadres led by party MLA P. Kaushik Reddy held a large protest rally. Demonstrators carried placards and banners criticizing the minister, while some protesters were seen symbolically striking a banner carrying Bandi Sanjay's image with footwear as slogans demanding his removal echoed through the gathering.

Similar protests were organized in Vemulawada under the leadership of Chalmeda Lakshmi Narasimha Rao. Protesters sat on roads carrying posters demanding justice for the minor victim and insisting that the minister resign immediately. Demonstrators also stated that if Bandi Sanjay refused to step down voluntarily, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should remove him from office.

Baramulla MP gets interim bail for father's last rites

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted interim bail to jailed Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid till June 2 to enable him to attend the funeral and perform the customary last rites of his father, who passed away at AIIMS-Delhi in the early hours of the day.

A division bench of Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Madhu Jain allowed the plea moved by Abdul Rashid Sheikh, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) verified the death of his father.

In its order, the Delhi High Court noted that Rashid would be required to carry out several rituals, including funeral prayers and burial on May 18, a four-day mourning period, and subsequent ceremonies such as the seventh-day prayers and other customary observances.

Rashid, who is facing trial in a terror funding case, had moved the application seeking interim bail to conduct the burial and perform customary religious rites following his father's demise at AIIMS, Delhi, around 12:10 a.m.

The Delhi High Court directed that Rashid be released on interim bail till June 2, subject to stringent conditions, including continuous police escort and restrictions on his movement and interactions. It ordered that the MP will remain accompanied by at least two plainclothes police personnel throughout the period of interim bail, from the time of his release till his return to custody.

The Justice Singh-led Bench further directed that Rashid would be permitted to stay only at his residences in Srinagar and Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir and may visit the burial ground or place of worship strictly for the purpose of performing last rites.

NSUI protests in Delhi over NEET paper leak

NEW DELHI

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI), on Monday staged protests in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh over the alleged NEET paper leak issue, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, and a ban on the National Testing Agency (NTA).

NSUI workers gathered to protest against repeated paper leak incidents, alleging that lakhs of students are suffering due to irregularities in competitive examinations.

One of the protestors said, Our clear demand is that NTA should be banned and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should resign. Repeated paper leaks are affecting lakhs of students. Students prepare for an entire year, and in the end they find out that the paper has been leaked.

The protestor further said that such incidents deeply affect not only students but also parents who spend their hard-earned money on their children's education and preparation.

Another protestor alleged that paper leak incidents had occurred repeatedly in 2021, 2024 and again in 2026, accusing the government of not taking the issue seriously.

Our two main demands are that Dharmendra Pradhan should resign and the NTA should be banned.

He has become so insensitive that they do not want to take strict action. Today, one beautician has been arrested, but how can she leak papers in such a large system? the protestor questioned.

'Telangana developing efficient disaster management system'

HYDERABAD

Telangana is developing a more efficient disaster management system by studying rescue measures undertaken globally during disasters, said state Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

He emphasised that rapid response, coordination among departments, and advance preparedness are extremely crucial in emergency situations such as floods, fire accidents, and industrial mishaps.

As part of the statewide disaster management mock exercises conducted on Monday, the minister, along with senior officials, inspected a massive flood mock drill held at the HMDA grounds on Necklace Road in Hyderabad.

Stating that protecting the lives and property of the people is the government's primary responsibility, he underlined the need for trained teams with the latest technology and modern equipment to be ready to undertake rescue operations.

Expressing anguish over forest fires destroying greenery, the minister also pointed out that the increasing fire accidents in urban areas are causing serious concern.

Srinivas Reddy stated that the first hour after a disaster strikes is extremely critical, and the actions taken during that Golden Hour are what can save lives. He noted that such mock drills are highly beneficial for evacuating people to safe areas, swiftly initiating relief measures, and coordinating emergency services during fire accidents, floods, and sudden mishaps.

Citing the 1908 Hyderabad Great Flood and the recent Godavari-Krishna floods, the minister remarked that history shows the extent of damage that occurred without vigilance in disaster management.

As part of the mock drill, special teams demonstrated inflatable lifeboats, technical methods to rescue those trapped in water, emergency evacuation procedures, and coordinated rescue operations in real-time.

The minister later visited the Necklace Road Boating Club and inspected the rescue activities. Commending the conduct of such extensive mock exercises in Telangana state, the minister congratulated the NDRF, SDRF, Disaster Management Department, and district officials.

He clarified that there is no need for the public to worry, as these are fully part of advance preparedness mock drills. He urged that only responsible information should reach the people through the media and social media platforms.Participants in this programme included Disaster Management Department Secretary Dasari Harichandan, Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services DG Vikram Singh Mann, HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath, and NDMA Lead Consultant Major General (Retd.) Sudhir Bahl.

Gujarat DyCM completes online self-enumeration

SURAT

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister, Harsh Sanghavi, on Monday said accurate census data was essential for ensuring government services and welfare schemes reached people at the grassroots level, as he urged citizens across the state to participate in the Centre's digital self-enumeration exercise for 'Census 2027'.

Speaking in Surat during the launch phase of the campaign, Sanghavi said the information collected through the census would help governments undertake policymaking, development planning and proper distribution of resources.

Census 2027 is one of the most important national processes undertaken by the Central government for the development and planning of the country, Sanghavi said.

He further added, The information obtained from the population census and the use of this information by the government, whether for policymaking or development, for proper distribution of resources, and for effectively delivering health, education, housing, employment, transport and various public welfare schemes to the grassroots level, makes this exercise extremely useful for citizens of every section of the country.

The first phase has commenced across the country, including in Gujarat, with the central government introducing a digital 'Self-Enumeration' facility allowing citizens to submit household details online from home.

Sanghavi filled in his family's details through the online portal from his residence on the second day of the campaign and appealed to citizens to consider participation in the exercise their national duty.

'APPROACH APPROPRIATE FORUM'

SC refuses to hear PIL on temple priests' wages

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions for framing a uniform wage and welfare framework for priests, sevadars, and temple staff working in state-controlled temples across the country.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta expressed disinclination to interfere in the matter and refused to entertain the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who appeared in person.

After the apex court indicated its unwillingness to examine the issue, Upadhyay sought permission to withdraw the petition with liberty to approach the appropriate authorities.

The Justice Vikram Nath-led Bench thereafter dismissed the matter as withdrawn.

The petitioner seeks permission to withdraw the plea with liberty to approach the appropriate authorities. The petition is dismissed as withdrawn, the top court recorded in its order.

The plea had sought directions to the Centre and state governments to constitute a judicial commission or expert committee to review the wages and service conditions of priests, sevadars, and temple staff in temples under government control. The petition also sought a declaration that priests and temple staff fall within the definition of employee under Section 2(k) of the Code on Wages, 2019, making them entitled to minimum wages and other labour welfare protections.

The plea contended that once state governments assume administrative, financial and economic control over temples, an employer-employee relationship arises between temple administrations and priests or temple workers. It claimed that priests and temple staff in several states survive on arbitrary honorariums, dakshina-based payments and meagre remuneration, often ranging between Rs 1,000 and Rs 5,000 per month, without pension, healthcare or social security protections.

Referring to statutory frameworks governing temples in states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala, the plea argued that governments exercise pervasive control over appointments, service conditions, disciplinary supervision, and temple revenues, while simultaneously denying labour welfare protections to temple workers.

QUICK READ

Kerala CM Satheesan's Sudhakaran twist puts Vijayan in a tight spot

Thiruvananthapuram
After suffering a bruising electoral setback and growing criticism within his own party district committee meetings, Kerala's former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan now finds himself facing yet another politically uncomfortable moment, this time from the newly sworn-in government led by V. D. Satheesan. In a move loaded with symbolism and political messaging, the Satheesan cabinet, in its first meeting after the oath ceremony earlier today, has decided to recommend former CPI-M leader G. Sudhakaran as the pro-tem Speaker of the 16th Kerala Legislative Assembly, which convenes for the first time on May 21. Though the post of pro-tem Speaker is technically assigned to the senior-most MLA as per constitutional convention, the appointment has acquired enormous political significance given Sudhakaran's bitter fallout with the CPI-M leadership and his open rebellion against Vijayan.

Palaniswami invites rebel AIADMK MLAs for talks

Chennai
AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami invited rebel party MLAs to "come for talks" if they had grievances, even as he stepped up his attack on the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) and its government.
His outreach comes amid a signature campaign by rebels demanding a General Council meeting to review the party's electoral setbacks. Palaniswami, however, convened a meeting of district secretaries at his Greenways Road residence

NDA hails Modi for receiving 'Royal Order of the Polar Star'

Alliance leaders termed the bestowal a moment of pride for India and a reflection of country's growing global influence under PM Modi

NEW DELHI

Leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Monday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he was awarded Sweden's highest civilian honour for a head of government, the Royal Order of the Polar Star Commander Grand Cross.

Political leaders described the recognition as a moment of pride for India and a reflection of the country's growing global influence under Modi's leadership.

Reacting to the honour, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said Prime Minister Modi is widely regarded across the world as a global leader capable of providing direction during international crises. He stated that the award was not only an honour for the Prime Minister personally but also a recognition of the people of India.

BJP spokesperson RP Singh described the recognition as evidence of India's increasing stature on the global stage. He noted that this was the 31st international honour received by Prime Minister Modi and said the award reflected international appreciation for India's contributions toward peace and global cooperation.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak also congratulated the Prime Minister, calling the honour prestigious and significant for the country.

Janata Dal United chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said the recognition was a matter of pride for every Indian citizen.

He stated that the democratically elected leader of 140 crore Indians receiving such a distinguished international honour elevated the nation's self-respect and prestige regardless of religion or caste.

Prime Minister Modi received the Royal Order of the Polar Star Commander Grand Cross during his official visit to Sweden on

Sunday. The honour was presented by Crown Princess Victoria during a ceremony held at the residence of the County Governor in the presence of Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

According to the Swedish Prime Minister's Office, the decision to confer the honour upon the Indian Prime Minister was taken by Carl XVI Gustaf.

The award is considered Sweden's highest civilian honour that can be presented to a foreign head of government.

The Royal Order of the Polar Star was instituted in 1748 and is awarded to individuals for exceptional personal contributions benefiting Sweden or Swedish interests.

Officials from the Swedish government stated that the honour recognised Prime Minister Modi's efforts in strengthening ties between India and Sweden as well as promoting international cooperation.

- THE AWARD: Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross
- PRESENTED BY: Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden
- CONTEXT: The honour was awarded during PM Modi's bilateral discussions with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.
- MILESTONE: This prestigious recognition marks the 31st international honour awarded to PM Modi by a foreign nation, reflecting his sustained statesmanship on the world stage.

Uttarakhand CM greets newly-appointed govt employees

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday sent out digital letters to thousands of government employees, selected over the past few years and motivated them to serve the people to the best of their capacity while emerging as a role model for other public service aspirants.

The Chief Minister conveyed greetings and good wishes in the letter and also spoke to a few of the employees to hail their notable contributions.

CM Dhami personally spoke with several of the selected youths over the telephone, encouraging them to contribute to public service with enthusiasm and dedication.The Chief Minister said the people of Uttarakhand entrusted him, for the second time in 2022, with the responsibility of serving as their Chief Servant and his administration was constantly striving to live up to this pledge.

RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY UNVEILS NEW EMBLEM

JAIPUR

Governor Haribhau Bagde on Monday unveiled the newly designed emblem of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly as part of celebrations marking 75 years of the Assembly's establishment.

He also announced the names of 13 gates within the Assembly premises, describing the legislature as a sacred institution of democracy that reflects Rajasthan's cultural identity and democratic traditions.

Speaking at the ceremony, Governor Bagde said the new emblem symbolises the rich heritage, resilience and democratic values of Rajasthan. He noted that although the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly was formally constituted in 1952 after India's Independence, the foundations of representative governance in the state date back to 1913, when Maharaja Ganga Singh established a representative assembly known as the Pratinidhi Sabha.The Governor described the unveiling of the emblem as a significant milestone during India's Amrit Kaal celebrations and said it

represented the collective aspirations and cultural spirit of the people of Rajasthan.

The new logo was developed on the initiative of Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani and incorporates several important symbols associated with the state. These include the Rohida flower, the Khejri tree and the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly building.

According to the Governor, the symbols included in the emblem represent the determination and vibrant spirit of Rajasthan's people, who continue to thrive despite challenging geographical and climatic conditions. Referring to the Khejri tree as Rajasthan's equivalent of the mythical Kalpa Vriksha, he recalled the historic sacrifice of villagers in Khejadli who gave their lives to protect trees. He said the event continues to stand as a powerful example of harmony between nature and society.

During his address, Bagde also shared an anecdote involving Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar to emphasize the importance of discipline and responsible conduct in governance and daily life. Recounting the story, he said Mavalankar once pointed out that true management begins with personal discipline after observing food being wasted on a plate by a person claiming expertise in management.

Using the example to underline the value of accountability and efficient governance, the Governor stressed that sound management.

'Compromising with Constitution, secularism not in national interest'

LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Monday advised both the Centre and state governments to safeguard the country's secular identity, uphold the dignity of the Constitution, and act firmly against post-election violence in West Bengal.

In a post on X, Mayawati said India enjoys a unique and respected identity across the world because of the Constitution framed by Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, which is rooted in the principle of secularism and equal respect for all religions.

The country's humanitarian values ensure protection of life, property and religious freedom for followers of every faith, adding that governments as well as citizens must adhere to these constitutional principles, she said.

India's Constitution acts as a protective shield against anti-India propaganda abroad. Therefore, it is the responsibility of both the Central and state governments to ensure that nothing is done, or allowed to happen, that raises unpleasant questions about the country and its governance, she said.

Referring to the continuing debate over post-election violence in West Bengal, the BSP supremo said governments should become more alert and deal strictly with anarchy, especially in light of directions issued by the High Court.

She said it should be a matter of serious concern if any government faces allegations of narrow politics, religious discrimination, caste hatred or bias.

Mayawati further said that any existing or new laws brought in for public safety and larger public interest must be implemented equally for people of all religions.

To uphold the dignity of the Constitution and the rule of law, legal provisions must be enforced without religious or caste-based discrimination, prejudice or hatred, she said, adding that such an approach would strengthen public confidence that governments are working in the interest of all communities.

The BSP chief also said the country was facing difficult social, economic and political conditions, and governments should focus on resolving these pressing issues instead of diverting public attention through what she termed a destructive image-building exercise.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Riyadh Jamal Maidur** having address at – **Shripad Nagar, Dharwad-580001** with **Dharwar Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Someshwar Heights, Opp. Old SP Circle, P B Road, Dharwad-580001** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Riyadh Jamal Maidur** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Riyadh Jamal Maidur** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

Manoj Tiwari takes Metro ride after PM Modi's fuel

NEW DELHI

BJP MP, Manoj Tiwari, on Monday participated in the 'Metro Monday' campaign by travelling in the Delhi Metro and an electric auto along with NDMC Vice Chairman, Kuljeet Singh Chahal, while also promoting Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption through a new parking rebate initiative in the national Capital. The campaign, following the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the leadership of Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, focussed on encouraging the use of public transport and clean energy vehicles. As part of the initiative, Manoj Tiwari and Kuljeet Singh Chahal travelled through the city.

Delhi CM calls on LG to discuss development, growth issues

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday held discussions with Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on key issues related to the development and growth of the national capital.

The meeting took place amid the Delhi government's push to strengthen public transport infrastructure and implement measures aimed at tackling monsoon flooding and urban challenges.

According to a statement shared by Lok Niwas on social media platform X, the meeting focused on important development-related matters concerning Delhi. The discussions came shortly after Chief Minister Gupta reiterated her government's commitment to accelerating development projects and addressing civic concerns affecting residents of the capital.

The Chief Minister recently announced a Rs 150 crore development package for Dwarka and also highlighted the Rs 6,200 crore Metro expansion project connecting Kirti Nagar to Palam. The proposed Metro corridor is expected to improve connectivity and ease commuting for residents across several parts of Delhi.Earlier in the day, Rekha Gupta participated in the Metro Monday initiative launched under the Mera Bharat, Mera Yogdan public campaign.

'JD(U) driven by money-bag politics': Mohan targets Nitish's inner circle

PATNA

Former MP Anand Mohan launched a sharp attack on the functioning of the Janata Dal (United), claiming that the party has strayed from its ideological roots and is now dominated by wealth and influence.

Taking aim at former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Anand Mohan said that no one has made greater sacrifices for the Chief Minister than his own family.

He recalled resigning from the Cabinet at Nitish Kumar's signal, but alleged that despite such loyalty, he has now been sidelined.

He further remarked that although Nitish Kumar played a pivotal role in building the JD(U), his presence within the party has significantly diminished.

Today, Nitish Kumar has been politically buried alive. His face is nowhere to be seen—even when he was present on the dais during the swearing-in ceremony alongside 85 legislators, his photograph was missing, he claimed.

Raising questions over party leadership and visibility, Anand Mohan pointed out that earlier posters prominently featured Nitish Kumar along with Deputy Chief Ministers, but current banners across Bihar no longer include key leaders such as Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav.

If these leaders support you, why are their names and faces absent from the posters? he asked.

While clarifying that he does not blame the Bharatiya Janata Party, he instead targeted those close to Nitish Kumar, questioning their role and accusing them of isolating the Chief Minister.These advisors have buried Nitish Kumar alive. Do they only take him out for walks and meals? Why don't they question why he has disappeared from public messaging? he said.

Anand Mohan also touched upon social dynamics, claiming that backward communities in Bihar—who had seen increased political participation over the past two decades—did not celebrate Holi this year, suggesting growing discontent.On the issue of his son Chetan Anand not being inducted into the Cabinet, he alleged that money-bag politics has taken root within JD(U).Today, it is not individuals but money that speaks. Those arriving with bags of cash are being rewarded with ministerial positions, he alleged.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Jitesh Mehta** having address at – **202, 1st Main Narayanpur, 4 th Cross Deshpande Layout, Dharwad-580007** with **Dharwar Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Someshwar Heights, Opp Old SP Circle, P B Road, Dharwad-580001** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Jitesh Mehta** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Jitesh Mehta** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Nagaraj Dasharath Torvi** having address at – **Shaikh Compound, Opp Air Haliyal Road, Dharwad-580008** with **Dharwar Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Someshwar Heights, Opp Old SP Circle, P B Road, Dharwad -580001** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Nagaraj Dasharath Torvi** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Nagaraj Dasharath Torv** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

NOTICE

Locker Hired by **Kamaxi D Vernekar** having address at – **Mai Tower, Flat No-1907, 19th Floor, Al Quasis, Al Nahada, 1Near Nmc Hospital, 71609AE, Dubai -71609** with **Dharwar Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **Someshwar Heights, Opp. Old SP Circle, P B Road, Dharwad-580001** remains Un-operated past **7 years**.

All the **2** letters sent to **Kamaxi D Vernekar** calling upon them to operate the locker has return unreserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Kamaxi D Vernekar** within **90 days** from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **17/08/2026 at around 12 PM**.

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक

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ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080–27722735 ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 080–27723627
Web:www.nelamangalatown.mrc.gov.in Email :itstaffnelamangala@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ನೆನ/ಆಶಾ/ಘವನಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.05.2026

"ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭೆ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	**DMA/2026-27/SE7904**	45.00	90,000/–

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/portal/portal-home** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.
2) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪರಿಸರ) ರವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ,

DIPR/CP/VCPL/726/2026-27

QUICK READ

In war scarred Gaza, brides turn to refurbished wedding dresses

GAZA

In a small sewing workshop in southern Gaza, Nisreen Al Rantisi pulls fabric from a pile and reshapes worn wedding dresses, trying to keep a fading tradition alive amid war and soaring costs. Families said they have been struggling to find new wedding dresses and many search instead for places that refurbish gowns and other kinds of clothes for their children. Importers cite delays, high shipping costs, and restrictions on materials, such as the crystals encrusted into the elaborate wedding dresses, as key factors behind the shortages and price hikes. Many workshops have also been damaged during the conflict. We try to reuse the old gowns that we have, produce them by fixing them a bit, work on them, wash them, arrange them, shape them, said Rantisi, adding that work initially relied on a bicycle-powered sewing machine due to electricity shortages.

China denounces Taiwan foreign min's Geneva visit

BEIJING

China said on Monday it opposed countries providing platforms for Taiwan independence separatist activities, after Taiwan's foreign minister arrived in Switzerland for events on the sidelines of a World Health Organization (WHO) meeting. China said last week it would once again not allow Taiwan, which Beijing views as its own territory, to take part in the WHO's annual World Health Assembly (WHA), which takes place this week. But as in previous years, Taiwan has sent a delegation to hold its own meetings and this year Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung has also gone, joining Health Minister Shih Chung-liang.

Ebola outbreak declared a global health emergency

Although the outbreak has not yet reached pandemic stage, the risk of further spread remains high, especially in countries sharing borders with Congo

CONGO

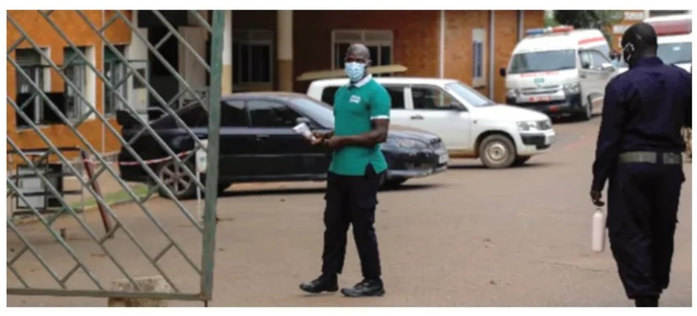
The World Health Organization has declared the Ebola outbreak affecting the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda a public health emergency of international concern after at least 80 deaths were linked to the disease.

Health authorities warned that although the outbreak has not yet reached pandemic status, the risk of further regional spread remains high, especially in countries sharing borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to the World Health Organization, the outbreak has been caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus. The agency said the situation required urgent international attention because of the growing number of suspected infections and the potential for cross-border transmission in central and eastern Africa.In a statement released, the United Nations health agency reported that 80 suspected deaths had been recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Ituri province. Officials also confirmed eight laboratory-tested Ebola cases and 246 suspected infections across at least three health zones, including Bunia, Rwampara and Mongbwalu.

Health officials said the outbreak has already spread beyond rural areas, with one confirmed case detected in the eastern Congolese city of Goma. The city, which is close to the border with Rwanda and serves as a major regional transport hub, has previously faced Ebola outbreaks and remains highly vulnerable because of heavy population movement.

Concerns have also emerged regarding possible international exposure. Reports from American media outlets stated that at least six Americans working in the Democratic Republic of Congo may have been exposed to the Ebola virus. According to



the reports, three of those exposures were considered high risk. Another report suggested that one American individual may have developed symptoms associated with the disease, although these claims had not been independently verified.The United States government is reportedly exploring options to evacuate potentially exposed individuals from the region, with some reports suggesting they could be transported to a military facility in Germany for monitoring and treatment.

Officials from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that the agency had activated its emergency response center in response to the outbreak. Additional personnel are expected to be deployed to CDC offices in both the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda to assist local health authorities with containment efforts, contact tracing and public health coordination.

During a media briefing, CDC Ebola response manager Satish Pillai declined to confirm whether any infected individuals were American citizens but stressed that the current risk to the United States remains low.

G7 Finance Ministers look to contain Iran economic fallout

PARIS

A group of seven are meeting in Paris to discuss global economic tensions, trade imbalances and coordination on critical mineral supplies, amid growing geopolitical tensions

Finance ministers and central bank representatives from the Group of Seven nations gathered in Paris on Monday amid rising concern over public debt levels and increasing volatility in global bond markets.

Government bond markets across major economies continued to face pressure on Monday, extending losses from Asia to the United States as investors reacted to growing concerns about inflation risks. Analysts said fears that higher oil and energy prices resulting from geopolitical tensions in the Middle East could drive up consumer prices have increased expectations of future interest rate hikes by central banks.

French Finance Minister Roland Lescure acknowledged the seriousness of the situation but rejected suggestions that global bond markets were collapsing. Speaking to reporters before the meeting, he described the developments as a market correction rather than a financial crisis.

However, he admitted that governments could no longer ignore the issue of rising public debt in an environment of higher borrowing costs and economic uncertainty.

The Paris meeting includes finance ministers and representatives from G7 central banks, who are expected to discuss how governments can coordinate responses to economic shocks such as inflation and market instability. According to the French finance ministry, the talks will focus on temporary, targeted and reversible policy measures designed to stabilize economies without worsening long-term fiscal pressures.

Germany's central bank chief Joachim Nagel expressed confidence that policymakers still had tools available to calm financial markets and restore investor confidence. European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde also commented on the recent turbulence, saying it was her responsibility to remain concerned about market developments and financial stability.

Japan has emerged as one of the countries most sensitive to the recent bond market volatility because of its large debt burden and historically low interest rates. Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama said Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi had instructed her to work toward minimizing financial risks linked to rising long-term interest rates, although she did not provide additional details on possible measures.

The G7 ministers are also expected to discuss broader economic tensions, including supply chain challenges and coordination on securing critical raw materials needed for technology and energy industries. However, divisions within the G7 over trade policy, economic priorities and responses to global conflicts have complicated efforts to present a united front ahead of the leaders' summit scheduled to take place from June 15 to June 17 in the French town of Evian.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva urged policymakers to avoid decisions that could worsen existing economic instability. Her remarks reflected broader fears that poorly coordinated responses to inflation and geopolitical tensions could deepen uncertainty in financial markets and slow global economic growth.

Russia unleashes another aerial barrage on Ukraine

MOSCOW

Russia launched a fresh wave of overnight drone attacks, missile strikes and shelling across multiple regions of Ukraine, killing at least one person and injuring more than 30 others, Ukrainian officials said on Monday.

Ukrainian authorities said Russian drones struck residential neighborhoods and civilian infrastructure during the overnight assault.

In the strategic Black Sea port city of Odesa, drones damaged apartment buildings, a school and a kindergarten, according to local military administration chief Serhiy Lysak.

Emergency crews were deployed to the affected areas as rescue operations and damage assessments continued through the morning.

Officials reported that an 11-year-old boy and a 59-year-old man were among those injured in the Odesa attack. Images released by local authorities showed destroyed vehicles, shattered windows and debris scattered across residential streets following the strikes.

In a separate attack, Russia launched missiles at the southeastern city of Dnipro, injuring at least 18 people. Regional governor Oleksandr Hanzha said two children were among the wounded, including a two-year-old girl and a 10-year-old boy. Medical teams continued treating the injured while emergency workers inspected damaged buildings and infrastructure.

Further east, the Zaporizhzhia region also came under attack overnight. Regional governor Ivan Fedorov confirmed that three people were injured during the strikes. In the southern Kherson region, another person was killed and nine others were wounded after shelling and drone attacks hit populated areas, according to regional governor Oleksandr Prokudin.The latest assaults highlight the continued use of drones and missile attacks by both sides in the prolonged conflict. Ukrainian officials have repeatedly accused Russia of deliberately targeting civilian infrastructure, while Moscow claims its attacks are aimed at military facilities and strategic assets.

Meanwhile, Russian authorities reported that several Ukrainian drones were intercepted overnight over the southern Russian regions of Rostov and Belgorod. Russia's defence ministry said air defence systems successfully shot down the drones before they could reach their intended targets.

The renewed violence followed one of Ukraine's largest drone operations against Russia in recent months. Over the weekend, Ukrainian drones targeted Moscow and surrounding regions in what officials described as the biggest overnight attack on the Russian capital in more than a year. Russian authorities said at least four people died during those strikes, including three in the Moscow region.

The escalating exchange of drone and missile attacks underscores the continuing volatility of the conflict, despite repeated international calls for de-escalation and renewed peace negotiations.

Earthquake hits southwest China; thousands evacuated

BEIJING

A magnitude 5.2 earthquake struck China's southwestern Guangxi region early on Monday, killing two people and forcing the evacuation of more than 7,000 residents in the city of Liuzhou. Authorities launched emergency rescue operations following the quake and warned of possible transport disruptions as officials assessed the extent of the damage.

The earthquake hit Guangxi province during the early morning hours, shaking residential areas and triggering panic among residents in several parts of Liuzhou city. Local authorities confirmed that at least two people lost their lives in the disaster, while several others were reported injured as rescue workers continued searching affected areas for possible survivors.

Officials said more than 7,000 residents were evacuated from buildings and neighborhoods considered vulnerable to structural damage. Emergency shelters were set up to accommodate displaced families as local governments coordinated relief and rescue efforts.

The tremor caused damage to homes, roads and public infrastructure in parts of the region. Videos shared on social media showed cracked walls, fallen debris and frightened residents gathering in open spaces after the quake. Authorities warned that aftershocks could continue and advised residents to remain cautious.

Transport services in and around Liuzhou were also affected following the earthquake. Railway operations and road traffic in certain areas experienced disruptions as safety inspections were carried out on bridges, tunnels and transport network.

Hantavirus-hit cruise ship arrives at Rotterdam port

ROTTERDAM

A luxury liner at the centre of an outbreak of hantavirus reached the Dutch port of Rotterdam on Monday, marine tracking sites said, where authorities prepared quarantine arrangements for the 23 crew and two medical staff remaining on board.

The Dutch-flagged MV Hondius had been carrying around 150 passengers and crew from 23 countries when a cluster of severe respiratory illnesses was first reported to the World Health Organization on May 2.

Three people - a Dutch couple and a German national - have died since the start of the outbreak.

The vessel, operated by Oceanwide Expeditions, had been stranded off Cape Verde, its intended final destination, earlier this month after authorities barred passengers from going ashore due to the outbreak.

The WHO and the EU asked Spain to manage the evacuation at the Canary Islands, after which the ship departed for Rotterdam with a skeleton crew and two additional medical staff.

Local port authorities said quarantine facilities had been set up for some of the non-Dutch crew, though it was unclear if they would stay there for the full recommended 42-day quarantine period. The vessel itself was to undergo disinfection.

Hantavirus is primarily spread by rodents but can be transmitted between people in rare cases and after prolonged, close contact. Incubation can last about six weeks.

Crew, passengers who already left the ship and people in contact with them have been quarantined in several countries around the world.

'Israel intercepted 10 vessels, contact lost with 23'

ISTANBUL

The organisers of a flotilla of aid vessels bound for Gaza said on Monday that Israeli forces had intercepted 10 of their boats and that contact had been lost with a total 23 vessels in the eastern Mediterranean.

Earlier on Monday, Israel's foreign ministry had said on X that it will not allow any breach of the lawful naval blockade on Gaza.

Ships from the Global Sumud Flotilla had set sail for a third time on Thursday from southern Turkey, after earlier attempts to deliver aid to Gaza were intercepted by Israel in international waters.

Live video showed military vessels approaching the vessels on Monday.

Military vessels are currently intercepting our fleet and (Israeli) forces are boarding the first of our boats in broad daylight.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MEGALAMANE BASAVARAJU BASAVANAGOWDA**, S/o Megalamane Basavana Gowda, resident of. No 47, 4th Main, 4th Cross, M L A Layout, Dollars Colony, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560094, have changed my name to **MEGALAMANE BASAVANAGOWDA** BASAVARAJ, vide affidavit dated: 18.05.2026, before Notary C. SHARADA, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAKKUBAI PAMMAR W/o LATE NAMADEV PAMMAR, R/o 215, Scheme No 40, Kuvempu Nagar, Hanuman Nagar, Belgaum, Karnataka-591108, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHANKREWWA NAMADEV PAMMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIKITA SIOTIA D/o VIJAY KUMAR SIOTIA, R/o 002 Ground Floor, Tower 5, Salarpuria Sattva Anugraha, 9th Cross Road, Govindraja Nagar Ward, Cauvery Nagar, Vijaynagar, Opposite to Somnahalli Bridge/Flyover, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560079, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIKITA AGRAWAL.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pawan Kumar Dahima S/o Nand Kumar Dahima R/o B-406, Pride Springfields Gubbalala Road, Subramanyapura, Post Uttarahalli , Bangalore, Karnataka - 560061, I have changed the name of my minor son Daksh Dadhich to Divyansh Dadhich aged 14 years.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Thangavel Sundra Umamaheshwari W/o Thangapandian, R/o No. 1250/1, 1st Floor, 80 Feet Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Mysore, Bogadi, Karnataka-570026, have changed my name to T S Umamaheshwari.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.Chandrappa, S/o Narayana, aged about 70 years, residing at Thimmarayaswany Temple Road Govinda Raju layout Anekal Bangalore-562106, has LOST THE ORIGINAL REGISTERED SALE DEED DATE 25-06-2019, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT No.ANK-1---02110-2019-20of BOOK-1,STORED IN CD No. ANKD571, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUB-REGISTRAR, Anekal, BENGALURU, LOST At NEAR ANEKAL BUS STOP ON 25-04-2026 BETWEEN 12:00 PM TO 07:00PM.A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 03-05-2026 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING No. 2184312/2026, Finders may return the same to the nearest Police Station or contact at the below address. If any Persons, Firm, Company, Financial Institution or Organization has any claim are holding therefore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

GEETHA. JB.com, PGDCA LLB,
Advocate & Legal Consultant,
Justice Law Firm, No. 336,
Near Govt School AttibeleSarjapurRoad, Bidaraquppe, Bengaluru
Kamataka-562107 Mobile No. 7204518399

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PRABOWO BOOSTS AF POWER

Indonesia to build up defence capabilities with new aircraft

JAKARTA

Indonesia will continue expanding its defence capabilities in response to growing geopolitical uncertainty, President Prabowo Subianto said on Monday while officially handing over six Rafale fighter jets and several other military assets to the Indonesian Air Force.

The ceremony marked another major step in Indonesia's military modernization program aimed at strengthening national security and regional deterrence capabilities.

The six Rafale fighter jets delivered to Indonesia are part of a larger agreement signed in 2022 with Dassault Aviation worth approximately $8.1 billion for a total of 42 aircraft. Indonesia received the first three Rafale jets in January this year, while the remaining three were formally introduced during Monday's ceremony.

Speaking at the event, President Prabowo emphasized that Indonesia's military expansion was intended solely for national defence and protection of territorial sovereignty.

He described the arrival of the advanced fighter aircraft as a milestone in improving Indonesia's defence readiness amid increasingly complex global and regional security conditions.

During the ceremony, Prabowo performed a traditional blessing ritual by spraying flowered water on the nose cone of one of the Rafale jets. The symbolic act is commonly practiced in Indonesia to mark good fortune and blessings when receiving new assets or beginning important projects.

In addition to the Rafale fighter jets, the Indonesian president also formally handed over several other pieces of military equipment acquired through agreements signed during his previous role as defence minister. These included four Dassault Falcon 8X aircraft, an Airbus A400M MRTT transport aircraft, a Thales GM403.

Iran begin final WC prep in Turkey

Iran's national football team has departed for Turkey to play a final friendly match

TEHRAN

Iran's national football team left for Antalya, Turkey on Monday as they step up preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The squad is scheduled to play a final friendly match before travelling to the United States for the global tournament, Iranian media reported.

According to reports, the travelling squad includes 22 domestic-based players along with the coaching staff. Head coach Amir Ghalenoei confirmed that the team will also complete visa-related formalities for entry into the United States while staying in Turkey.

The team's World Cup participation comes against a politically sensitive backdrop, with a fragile ceasefire still holding between Iran and the United States following a 40-day conflict that began earlier this year. Diplomatic relations between the two nations have remained strained since 1980, when the US severed ties after the Islamic Revolution and the hostage crisis at its embassy in Tehran.

Iran are expected to play two warm-up matches in Antalya, including a confirmed fixture against The Gambia on May 29. Officials involved in arranging the friendlies said discussions are ongoing for additional matches to fine-tune preparations ahead of the tournament.

However, logistical challenges remain. Iranian Football Federation president Mehdi Taj stated that no US visas have yet been issued for the squad, and players may need to complete fingerprinting procedures in Turkey as part of the application process. Authorities are also trying to avoid additional travel between Antalya and Ankara to streamline formalities.

FIFA secretary general Mattias Grafström recently held discussions with Iranian football officials in Turkey, with both sides describing the meeting as positive and constructive. While details were not disclosed, the talks are believed to have focused on administrative and logistical arrangements for Iran's participation.

Once in the United States, Iran will base themselves in Tucson, Arizona, for their World Cup campaign. Drawn in Group G, they will open their tournament against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15, followed by matches against Belgium in Los Angeles and Egypt in Seattle.

Messi doubles training ahead of 2026 World Cup

MIAMI

Argentina captain Lionel Messi is pushing himself through an intense training programme as he gears up for the FIFA World Cup 2026, according to his Inter Miami and national teammate Rodrigo de Paul. The veteran forward, who continues to perform at a high level in Major League Soccer, is reportedly going beyond his regular club commitments to maintain peak physical condition.

De Paul revealed that Messi has been following a structured double-session training plan for the past two to three months, designed specifically to prepare him for the demands of another World Cup campaign. The programme is being carried out alongside a personal trainer, with both players reportedly committing fully to the additional workload.

De Paul explained that the training arrangement was mutually agreed upon as part of Messi's focused preparation strategy. He said the sessions go beyond what is required at club level, highlighting the Argentine skipper's determination to stay at the highest competitive standard even in the later stages of his career.

"Between two and three months ago, we had a training plan beyond what we do at the club and we give it our all," De Paul was quoted as saying, adding that both players are fully committed to the demanding schedule.

Despite being 38, Messi continues to deliver impressive performances for Inter Miami in the 2026 MLS season. He has already scored 12 goals in 12 matches and provided six assists, underlining his enduring influence on the pitch.

In his latest outing, Messi contributed a goal and an assist in Inter Miami's 2-0 victory over Portland Timbers, further boosting their position in the league standings. The club currently sits second in the table with 28 points from 14 matches, just two points behind leaders Nashville.

With the World Cup approaching, Messi's preparations appear firmly on track as he aims to guide Argentina in defending their title on football's biggest stage.

Argentina star Lionel Messi is reportedly following a rigorous double training routine beyond club duties

Paris Saint-Germain suffered a surprise 2-1 defeat to Paris FC in their final Ligue 1 match

PSG stunned by Paris FC as Lille reach Champions League

PARIS

Fresh off lifting the Ligue 1 title, Paris Saint-Germain ended their domestic campaign on a disappointing note after falling 2-1 to city neighbours Paris FC. The defeat came in their final league outing before the UEFA Champions League final against Arsenal, adding an unexpected setback to an otherwise dominant season.

PSG had already secured a record-extending 14th French league title earlier in the week with a win over Lens and were officially presented with the trophy before kickoff at the Stade Jean-Bouin. Head coach Luis Enrique fielded a strong lineup as he looked to fine-tune preparations ahead of the European final in Budapest on May 30.

However, concerns arose when star forward Ousmane Dembélé was forced off before the half-hour mark in what appeared to be a fitness scare. While PSG took the lead early in the second half through Bradley Barcola, the match turned dramatically in the closing stages.

Substitute Alimami Gory struck twice for Paris FC, including a stoppage-time winner that handed the newly promoted side an impressive 2-1 victory. Despite the loss, PSG remain focused on their Champions League final, where they will attempt to defend their European crown.

"It has been a tricky end to the season, but now we have two weeks to prepare for the biggest match in our history," said Luis Enrique, while downplaying concerns over Dembélé's condition and attributing his substitution to fatigue.

Elsewhere, Lille secured a return to the Champions League by finishing third, despite a 2-0 defeat to Auxerre. Their qualification was confirmed after Lyon suffered a heavy 4-0 loss to Lens, leaving them fourth and forced into the qualifying rounds.

Marseille also booked European football with a 3-1 win over Rennes, while other qualification and relegation battles went down to the wire across a dramatic final night. Monaco lost a thrilling 5-4 contest against Strasbourg, and Nice were pushed into a relegation play-off after a goalless draw with Metz.

The Ligue 1 finale delivered high drama across the table, but PSG's shock defeat provided the standout surprise ahead of their continental showdown.

India eye redemption against France challenge at Malaysia Masters

KUALA LUMPUR

Indian shuttlers are set for another showdown with French opponents at the Malaysia Masters Super 50

Indian badminton players will be aiming for redemption as they prepare to face familiar French rivals once again at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament starting Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur. The fresh India-France contest comes just weeks after India suffered a disappointing 0-3 defeat to France in the Thomas Cup semifinals in Horsens, Denmark.

In that encounter, India lost all three singles matches, eventually settling for a bronze medal finish. This time, several Indian singles players will once again come up against French opposition, setting the stage for another high-stakes battle.

HS Prannoy will face Christo Popov, while Tharun Mannepalli is set to take on Toma Junior Popov. Kiran George faces a tough challenge against seventh seed Alex Lanier. Meanwhile, Lakshya Sen, who missed the Thomas Cup semifinal due to an elbow injury, returns to action and will open his campaign against Indonesia's Moh Zaki Ubaidillah.

In men's doubles, Harihara Amsakarunan and MR Arjun will look to make an impact as they face the French pair of Christo Popov and Toma Junior Popov in a challenging opener. The Indian pair will be keen to make a strong statement after missing out on opportunities in the previous team event.

The women's singles draw also presents tough fixtures for Indian players. Tanvi Sharma takes on Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniputh, while sixth seed Unnati Hooda faces China's Han Qian Xi. Malvika Bansod meets Germany's Yvonne Li, and Anmol Kharb will play eighth seed Line Højmark Kjærsfeldt of Denmark.

Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ram is up against Japan's Natsuki Nidaira, while Isharani Baruah faces a difficult clash against fifth seed Line Christophersen of Denmark.

Praggnanandhaa held by Van Foreest as Keymer takes sole lead at Superbet Chess Classic

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by Jorden Van Foreest in Round 4

BUCHAREST

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out a solid draw against Dutch player Jorden Van Foreest in the fourth round of the Superbet Chess Classic, while Germany's Vincent Keymer produced a commanding victory to move into sole lead in the elite tournament.

With one win against Alireza Firouzja and three draws so far, Praggnanandhaa moved to 2.5 points out of a possible four. Despite holding steady in the standings, the Indian teenager missed an opportunity to break into the sole lead group as the top board battles intensified.

In his game against Van Foreest, Praggnanandhaa, playing with black pieces, navigated an irregular opening comfortably and quickly equalised. Van Foreest, steadily improving in the world rankings and now inside the top 20, attempted to press for a win in the middlegame but failed to create decisive chances. After a series of accurate exchanges from both sides, the players repeated moves and agreed to a draw after 35 moves.

Elsewhere, Keymer delivered the standout performance of the round, defeating France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave with precision and aggression. After steering the game into an English Attack against the Najdorf Sicilian, the German star capitalised on weaknesses on the kingside and launched a strong central breakthrough.

Keymer soon gained a material advantage by winning a rook for a bishop and maintained pressure as Vachier-Lagrave faltered under time and positional stress. The French grandmaster's decisive mistake in the middlegame allowed Keymer to convert his advantage efficiently, sealing the game in just 38 moves and pushing him to 3 points.

In other matches, Anish Giri drew with Javokhir Sindarov, while Wesley So was held by Deac Bogdan-Daniel. Firouzja's game against Fabiano Caruana was postponed due to health concerns.

With Keymer now leading the table and several players closely bunched behind, the Superbet Chess Classic remains finely poised heading into the next round.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander wins back-to-back NBA MVP awards

OKLAHOMA CITY

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander capped another remarkable season by winning the NBA's Most Valuable Player award for the second consecutive year, further cementing his status as one of basketball's elite stars. The Oklahoma City Thunder guard became only the 14th player in NBA history to win back-to-back MVP honours.

The Canadian superstar led the defending NBA champions through another dominant campaign and was rewarded by voters after playing a central role in Oklahoma City's success. Gilgeous-Alexander received 83 of the 100 first-place votes, comfortably finishing ahead of Denver Nuggets star Nikola Jokic and San Antonio Spurs sensation Victor Wembanyama.

Speaking during a celebration at the Thunder practice facility surrounded by teammates, Gilgeous-Alexander stressed that the achievement belonged to the entire team rather than himself alone.

"Basketball is obviously a team sport. All the accolades and numbers wouldn't matter if we weren't winning games," he said. The 27-year-old became the 18th player in league history to win at least two MVP awards. His victory also extended a notable international streak, marking the eighth consecutive year that a non-American player has claimed the NBA's top individual honour.

Gilgeous-Alexander averaged 31.1 points per game this season, second only to Luka Doncic, while continuing his NBA-record streak of regular-season games with at least 20 points. He also won the NBA's Clutch Player of the Year award earlier this season after repeatedly delivering in close contests.

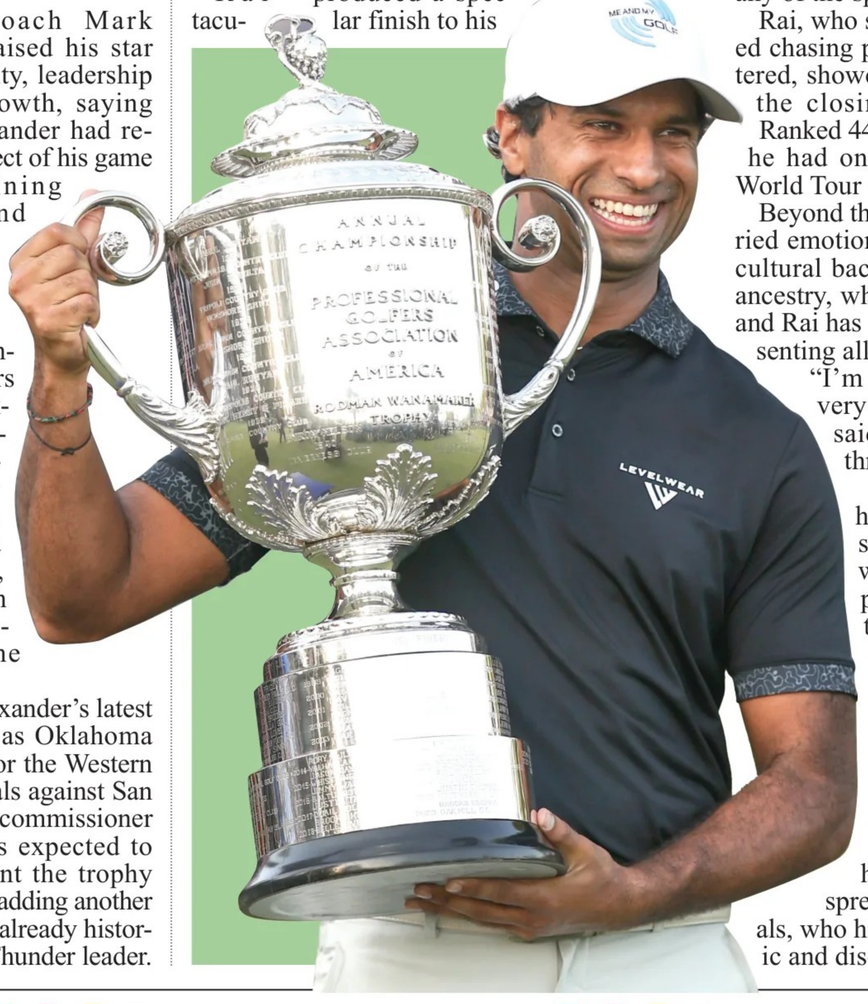
Thunder coach Mark Daigneault praised his star player's maturity, leadership and steady growth, saying Gilgeous-Alexander had refined every aspect of his game while remaining grounded and team-oriented.

The MVP race once again highlighted the dominance of international stars in the NBA. Jokic finished second after another extraordinary season in which he averaged a triple-double, while French phenom Wembanyama came third.

Gilgeous-Alexander's latest honour comes as Oklahoma City prepares for the Western Conference finals against San Antonio. NBA commissioner Adam Silver is expected to formally present the trophy before Game 1, adding another milestone to an already historic year for the Thunder leader.

AARON RAI WINS MAIDEN PGA CHAMPIONSHIP, PROUDLY EMBRACES INDIAN AND KENYAN ROOTS

NEWTOWN



Aaron Rai etched his name into golfing history after winning the PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club, delivering a clutch-filled final round that showcased both composure and brilliance under pressure. The 31-year-old Englishman carded a 5-under-par 65 to finish at 9-under 271, securing a three-shot victory over Spain's Jon Rahm and American Alex Smalley.

Rai produced a spectacular finish to his round, highlighted by a 40-foot eagle putt on the ninth hole that ignited his charge. He followed it up with four birdies on the back nine before sealing the championship with a remarkable 68½-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, effectively ending the contest.

The victory marks a historic milestone, as Rai becomes the first English golfer since Jim Barnes in 1919 to win the PGA Championship. It also represents his first major title, having previously not finished better than tied 19th in any of the sport's biggest events.

Rai, who started the final round in a crowded chasing pack, held his nerve as others faltered, showcasing remarkable consistency in the closing stretch of the tournament. Ranked 44th in the world entering the week, he had one PGA Tour win and three DP World Tour titles prior to this breakthrough.

Beyond the achievement, Rai's triumph carried emotional significance due to his multicultural background. His father is of Indian ancestry, while his mother has Kenyan roots, and Rai has often spoken about proudly representing all three identities.

"I'm very proud of England, but also very proud of India and Kenya," Rai said. "I see myself as a mix of all three, and that means a lot to me."

A major influence in his journey has been his wife, Indian professional golfer Gaurika Bishnoi, whose advice and support have played a vital role in his preparation and mindset. Rai revealed that even casual conversations, including one during a car ride before the final round, helped shape his approach on the course.

The couple's light-hearted celebration plans reflected Rai's grounded nature, even after achieving one of golf's biggest honours. His victory earned widespread praise from fellow professionals, who highlighted his relentless work ethic and discipline as key to his success.

QUICK READ

US-Iran war: Bitcoin price drops to two-week low

New Delhi

Bitcoin slid to its weakest level in May on Monday over escalating macroeconomic concerns tied to the US Iran conflict, causing overall crypto market weakness. The world's largest cryptocurrency dropped to $76,711 before it recovered some losses to trade at $76,985.11 as of 2.25 pm. Major digital assets such as Ether and Solana also traded lower. Nearly $500 million of long positions were liquidated within about 15 minutes during early Asian trading hours, according to multiple reports. US listed spot Bitcoin exchange traded funds saw over $1 billion in outflows last week, the first such occurrence since late January, traders said. Surge in oil prices and bond yields led to Asian equities trading lower and traders fleeing riskier assets.

Realme 16T 5G with AI cam set for India debut

New Delhi

The camera is no longer a feature on a smartphone. For a growing number of Indian consumers, it is the reason to buy one. Camera quality has become one of the leading purchase criteria among Indian smartphone buyers and with nearly 80 per cent of users engaging with social media daily, according to a report by Market Research Future, a smartphone with exceptional camera qualities has become a must. Today's users are actively looking for a phone with good camera quality, a phone for photography, and a phone for clear photos that can capture every moment with precision and detail. Plus, with the AI boom, the question brands are now being asked is not just how many megapixels? but what does the AI do with them?

Sensex, Nifty recover from day's lows to end flat

Mumbai

Indian equity benchmarks erased most of their intra-day losses to end marginally higher on Monday, aided by strong buying in information technology stocks even as investors continued to track developments in West Asia. The benchmark Nifty closed 6.45 points, or 0.03 per cent, higher at 23,649.95, while the Sensex gained 77.05 points, or 0.10 per cent, to settle at 75,315.04. Both indices had traded in negative territory for most of the session before recovering in late trade. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, market experts said that the 23,700 level now stands as an immediate resistance area.

GE Aerospace expands India footprint with Rs 100 cr Pune unit

In 3 years, the aerospace major's investments in the facility, which makes critical components for commercial aircraft engines, total ₹510 crore

NEW DELHI

US-based aerospace engine manufacturer GE Aerospace announced on Monday that it will invest Rs 100 crore in its manufacturing facility in Pune to expand production capabilities and upgrade infrastructure.According to the company, the latest investment will be used to introduce new welding technologies, advanced inspection systems, precision tools, gauges and fixtures at the Pune facility. Additional infrastructure upgrades are also planned to help increase production capacity and improve manufacturing efficiency as the company continues scaling up operations in the country.

With the fresh investment, GE Aerospace's total commitment to the Pune facility has

now crossed Rs 510 crore over the past three years. The company stated that Rs 410 crore of that amount had already been invested during the last two years as part of its long-term expansion strategy in India.The Pune manufacturing plant plays a critical role in GE Aerospace's global supply chain and produces essential components used in several major commercial aircraft engine programmes. These include the GE90, GEnx and GE9X engine series, as well as LEAP engines manufactured by CFM International, a joint venture between GE Aerospace and Safran.Company officials said the investment reflects GE Aerospace's broader strategy of strengthening India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem while also supporting workforce development. Since 2015, the Pune facility has trained more than 5,000 production associates, contributing to the development of skilled talent in the aviation manufacturing sector.

The company added that the continued expansion of operations is expected to create additional apprenticeship programmes and employment opportunities, not only within GE Aerospace but also across its supplier network and partner industries.The Pune facility currently works with more than 300 local suppliers and forms part of a much larger network of over 2,200 GE Aerospace suppliers operating across India. The company said this supplier ecosystem has become increasingly important in supporting both domestic manufacturing and global export operations.

GE Aerospace also highlighted its longstanding relationship with India's aviation and defence sectors. The company's defence engines and systems power several aircraft platforms operated by the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy. In the commercial aviation sector, more than 1,400 GE and CFM engines are currently used in aircraft operated by Indian airlines.The latest investment announcement comes as India continues to position itself as a major global manufacturing and aerospace hub. Industry experts believe that increased foreign investment in high-technology manufacturing sectors such as aerospace could help strengthen India's industrial capabilities, generate skilled employment and support the country's long-term aviation growth plans.

Symphony shares hit 15-month low after it swings into loss in Q4

MUMBAI

Shares of Symphony Limited fell as much as 8 per cent on Monday, marking their biggest single-day decline since February 2025, after the company reported a consolidated net loss for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY26 due to large impairment charges linked to its Australian business operations.The stock was trading 7.47 per cent lower to Rs 725. 5 during noon trade. Shares of the company have declined 11 per cent over the last one month, are down 21 per cent so far in 2026, and have corrected nearly 45 per cent from their recent 52-week high of Rs 1,309.Symphony reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 218 crore for the March quarter, compared to a net profit of Rs 79 crore in the same period last financial year (Q4 FY25).

India targets $2 trillion exports in 5 years: Goyal

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday that India is aiming to achieve exports worth $2 trillion within the next five years, while setting a target of $1 trillion in exports for the financial year 2026-27. The minister said India continues to remain a strong economic performer despite ongoing geopolitical tensions and uncertainty in global markets.Speaking at an event, Goyal highlighted that India's total exports of goods and services reached a record high of $863 billion during the financial year 2025-26.

He said the achievement came despite disruptions caused by global trade tensions, including tariff-related uncertainties linked to the United States and continuing geopolitical conflicts such as the war in Ukraine and tensions in West Asia arising from the Iran conflict.

The minister noted that India's growing network of free trade agreements has significantly expanded the country's access to global markets. According to Goyal, India's FTAs now cover more than two-thirds of global trade, strengthening export opportunities for Indian industries across sectors.He announced that India's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Oman is expected to come into force on June 1. India and Oman signed the agreement in December 2025 after several rounds of negotiations that began in November 2023. The deal provides duty-free access for most Indian exports, including textiles, to the Omani market.

Under the agreement, India will receive zero-duty access on more than 98 per cent of Oman's tariff lines, covering over 99 per cent of Indian exports by value. In return, India will reduce tariffs on approximately 78 per cent of its tariff lines, covering nearly 95 per cent of imports from Oman. Sensitive sectors will continue to receive protection mainly through tariff-rate quota mechanisms.Officials stated that bilateral trade between India and Oman reached $10.61 billion during 2024-25, representing an increase of 18.6 per cent compared to the previous year. The government expects the agreement to further strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries. Goyal also pointed out that India has already operationalised major trade agreements with countries and blocs including the United Arab Emirates, Australia and the European Free Trade Association. He added that agreements with the European Union and the United Kingdom are also expected to become operational later this year after legal ratification procedures are completed.

The minister said these agreements would help Indian exporters gain wider market access and improve the country's position in global trade networks. He added that additional FTAs currently undergoing legal processes would gradually begin contributing to export growth in the coming months.During the event, Goyal also released the Logistics Ease Across Different States report for 2025 and participated in the Logistics Excellence, Advancements and Performance Shield awards ceremony. He emphasized that reducing logistics costs has become an important national priority aimed at improving India's competitiveness in international trade and manufacturing.

BOI HIKES FD INTEREST RATES ON DEPOSITS BELOW RS 3 CR

NEW DELHI

Bank of India on Monday announced an increase in interest rates on medium- and long-term fixed deposits of less than Rs 3 crore, effective today.According to the state-owned lender, the revised interest rate for fixed deposits with tenures ranging from one year to less than two years has been increased to 6.50% per annum.For deposits with maturities between two years and less than three years, the interest rate has been revised to 6.60%, while three-year fixed deposits will now offer 6.70% annually, the bank said.Senior citizens and super senior citizens will continue to receive additional interest benefits over and above the applicable rates, the public sector lender added.Senior citizens will get an additional 0.50% interest, while super senior citizens will receive an extra 0.65% on deposits with maturities ranging from six months to less than three years.

For fixed deposits with maturities of three years and above, senior citizens and super senior citizens will be eligible for an additional interest of 0.75% and 0.90%, respectively.The bank also said non-callable fixed deposits above Rs 1 crore with a minimum tenure of one year will attract an additional 0.15% interest per annum.

However, loan against fixed deposits and premature withdrawal facilities will be available only for callable deposits.Customers can open fixed deposits through any Bank of India branch as well as via the BOI Omni Neo mobile application and internet banking platform, the lender said.

Indian fin institutions see surge in Deepfake-based fraud attempt

NEW DELHI

Deepfake-enabled fraud, powered by artificial intelligence, is emerging as a new high impact attack vector that targets financial institutions, customers and transaction ecosystems, a report said on Monday.The report from Seqrite, the enterprise security arm of cybersecurity solutions provider Quick Heal Technologies Limited said AI driven impersonation attacks that use synthetic voice, video and identity manipulation are increasingly able to bypass traditional verification mechanisms.Attackers can mimic executives, relationship managers, or customers with high accuracy, enabling fraudulent authorisations, account takeovers, and real-time payment manipulation.These attacks are particularly effective in environments where speed of transaction often outweighs verification depth, the report noted.Over 265.52 million detections across more than 8 million endpoints were recorded between October 2024 and September 2025 with an average of 505 detections every minute.Trojans accounted for about 43 per cent of detections and file infectors about 35 per cent, the report said, noting many campaigns relying on social engineering and identity deception to initiate compromise.Financial institutions, by design, operate on trust-driven interactions across customers, vendors, and internal systems. Deepfake-based fraud exploits this trust layer, embedding itself within legitimate communication channels such as calls, video verifications, and approval workflows, making detection significantly more complex.

India's hotel investments surge nearly 70% in 2025

NEW DELHI

India's hospitality sector saw exceptional momentum in 2025 with hotel investments of about $567 million across 28 transactions, up 67% from the prior year, a report said on Monday.The report from commercial real estate services firm JLL said institutional capital and private equity accounted for 35% of transaction volume.It further highlighted that high net worth individuals and family offices followed at 27%, and listed hotel companies stood at 25%, reflecting a sophisticated diversification of capital sources.Tier II and III cities captured roughly 40% of transaction volume and 71% of branded hotel signings concentrated in emerging cities, the report added.

'AI-driven cybersecurity threats could endanger market Integrity'

MUMBAI

Tuhin Kanta Pandey has identified artificial intelligence-driven cybersecurity threats as one of the biggest risks facing India's financial markets, warning that vulnerabilities in software systems could seriously undermine market integrity.

Pandey said current concerns regarding artificial intelligence are focused more on cybersecurity risks than on fears of market manipulation or algorithmic trading disruptions.

He explained that modern financial markets rely extensively on software infrastructure, making them highly vulnerable to cyberattacks if weaknesses in those systems are not addressed quickly.

According to the SEBI chief, any successful cyberattack targeting financial market systems could have severe consequences for investor confidence, operational stability and the overall integrity of the market ecosystem.

He emphasized that regulators and market participants must take preventive measures to strengthen digital security frameworks before vulnerabilities can be exploited.

Pandey stressed that all software systems used in the financial sector, including those developed by third-party vendors, must undergo strong security checks and regular updates.

He said aggressive patch management practices and extensive vulnerability assessments are necessary to ensure that weaknesses in software systems are identified and resolved immediately.The SEBI chairman also highlighted the importance of conventional cybersecurity tools in detecting and preventing attacks, even as artificial intelligence technologies become increasingly sophisticated. He said market institutions should adopt a proactive approach toward cybersecurity rather than reacting only after incidents occur.His comments come at a time when governments, regulators and technology experts worldwide are expressing growing concern about the rapid advancement of AI systems capable of identifying and exploiting software vulnerabilities autonomously. Experts warn that increasingly advanced AI models could significantly raise the scale and speed of cyberattacks against financial institutions and critical infrastructure.

KEY PILLAR OF FIN ECOSYSTEM

'ARCs strengthening India's financial ecosystem'

NEW DELHI

India's financial system has become stronger and more stable due to the growing role of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), M Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, said on Monday. Addressing an industry gathering during ASREC logo launch event in the national capital, he said ARCs have emerged as a key pillar of the country's financial ecosystem by helping banks and financial institutions resolve stressed assets efficiently.

ARCs play a major role in acquiring non-performing assets (NPAs) from banks and restoring confidence in the banking system, he said. These institutions help banks clean up their balance sheets, improve liquidity and focus on fresh lending activities that support economic growth, he added.

He noted that India's financial sector has undergone major transformation over the years with continuous efforts towards transparency, accountability and financial stability.

The government and regulators have consistently acted in the national interest to address stressed assets and maintain financial discipline, Nagaraju stated.Highlighting recent developments in the sector, Nagaraju said stronger institutional cooperation, improved frameworks and better networks have placed the industry in a stronger position for future growth.

He also thanked stakeholders, including leadership teams and partner institutions such as Union Bank of India and Bank of India, for their support and cooperation.The DFS Secretary said ARCs provide multiple mechanisms for debt resolution, including debt restructuring, enforcement of security interests and debt-to-equity conversions.He added that ARCs complement the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) by offering an alternative and often faster route for resolving stressed assets.

At the same time, Nagaraju acknowledged that the ARC sector continues to face challenges such as limited capital availability, regulatory overlaps, prolonged litigation and valuation mismatches between banks and ARCs.

Maruti Suzuki begins production at 2nd Kharkhoda plant

NEW DELHI

A leading automobile firm, Maruti Suzuki India, on Monday said it has commenced commercial production at the second plant of its Kharkhoda manufacturing facility in Haryana.According to the automobile company, the second plant has an annual production capacity of 2.5 lakh units, taking the total capacity at the Kharkhoda facility to 5 lakh units per annum.With the latest expansion, Maruti Suzuki's overall annual production capacity across its manufacturing facilities in Gurugram, Manesar and Kharkhoda in Haryana, along with Hansalpur in Gujarat, has increased to 26.5 lakh units.The company said that once fully operational, the Kharkhoda facility will become one of Suzuki's largest four-wheeler manufacturing hubs globally, with a total production capacity of 10 lakh vehicles annually.The automaker had earlier outlined plans to add 5 lakh units of production capacity during FY2026-27, and the commissioning of the second Kharkhoda plant is in line with that strategy.Currently, Maruti Suzuki manufactures the compact SUV Brezza and the mid-size SUV Victoris at the Kharkhoda facility.

IPL PLAYOFFS RACE GOES DOWN TO FINAL WEEK

The IPL 2026 playoff race has entered a dramatic final phase with seven teams fighting for just three remaining spots

NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 is heading into a tense finish to the league stage, with seven teams still in contention for the remaining three playoff berths. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have already secured their place in the top four following a crucial win over Punjab Kings, but the race behind them remains wide open and mathematically complex.

With only a few league matches left, the battle for qualification has intensified, and net run rate is expected to play a decisive role in several cases. Gujarat Titans, led by Shubman Gill, are in the strongest position among the chasing pack and need just one more win from their remaining fixtures to guarantee qualification. Even in the worst-case scenario, they are likely to stay ahead due to a healthy points buffer.

Sunrisers Hyderabad also remain well placed, with two wins potentially taking them to 18 points and a strong chance of a top-two finish. Even one win could be enough depending on other results, thanks to their superior net run rate.

Punjab Kings, however, face a must-win situation after their defeat to RCB. Their maximum possible tally is now limited, meaning they must win their final game and depend on multiple results going their way. Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings are in similar must-win scenarios, with both sides needing strong finishes to avoid elimination or a net run rate battle.

Delhi Capitals are in the most difficult position, with only one match remaining and a maximum of 14 points possible. Their qualification hopes depend heavily on other teams collapsing while also requiring a big win to overcome a poor net run rate.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Knight Riders remain in contention but need consistent results in their final matches to stay alive in the race. With only Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants already eliminated, the final week promises high-stakes encounters, shifting equations, and possible last-over drama as teams fight for survival in IPL 2026.

BCCI mulls shift of U-23 50-over tournament to T20 format

NEW DELHI

BCCI officials believe the possible shift could better align age-group cricket with modern T20 demands and global leagues

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is considering a major structural change to its domestic pathway programme, with plans to convert the Under-23 men's 50-over national tournament into the T20 format from the 2026–27 season. The proposed shift is still at a preliminary stage, and the board is expected to consult state associations and other key stakeholders before taking a final decision.

It is learnt that the board will seek opinions of state associations and former players, along with other respected voices in Indian cricket, before implementing any change. Officials indicated that feedback will be collected over the coming months as part of a broader review of domestic structures.

The tournament, currently known as the State A Championship, is divided into Elite and Plate divisions, following the existing domestic structure. Tamil Nadu are the defending champions in the Elite category, while Meghalaya hold the Plate division title from the previous season.

The corresponding Under-23 red-ball competition continues to be played as the Col CK Nayudu Trophy, which remains an important platform for identifying long-format talent at the junior level. BCCI officials believe the possible shift could help better align age-group cricket with the modern demands of the shortest format, given the rising prominence of T20 leagues globally and the need to prepare players for high-pressure situations. However, concerns remain among some administrators who feel that reducing 50-over exposure at the U-23 level may impact the development of one-day skills and match temperament required for senior domestic cricket and international ODIs.

According to sources, the proposal is expected to be placed before the BCCI's domestic structure committee in the coming weeks, after which formal discussions with state associations will begin. Any final decision is likely to be taken ahead of the 2026–27 domestic season schedule. If approved, the revamped competition could mark another significant shift in India's age-group cricket pathway system.

The BCCI has not issued an official statement yet and maintains that consultations are ongoing, with all options currently under consideration for the next phase of domestic cricket reforms. The review process continues across India.

Riyan Parag fumes after Rajasthan Royals' defeat to DC

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals skipper Riyan Parag did not hold back in the post-match presentation after his team suffered another disappointing defeat to Delhi Capitals in IPL 2026, a result that has left their playoff hopes hanging by a thread. The Royals, who have now lost four of their last five matches, missed a crucial opportunity to strengthen their position in the top four race.

Parag criticised Rajasthan's batting, bowling, and fielding, calling the overall performance "not up to the mark" and stressing that the team lacked the execution and energy required at this level.

"Pretty much everything, actually. We were in a pretty good space after 14 overs. After I got out, we didn't capitalise on that. It had to be 220–230. As far as bowling is concerned, we just weren't there. Very poor fielding as well," Parag said.

He added that while some tactical decisions may have looked questionable from the outside, they were made based on match situations. However, he admitted that none of the plans worked and the team failed to deliver in key moments.

The RR skipper further said the side has underperformed in recent matches and warned that continued poor displays would make them unworthy of a top-four finish.

"I feel if you want to win a trophy, you've got to be better than what we've done today. If we keep playing like this, we shouldn't be in contention for the top four," he said.

When reminded that Rajasthan still have a mathematical chance to qualify, Parag made it clear he was not interested in depending on other results. He said the team had already wasted its chances and must now take full responsibility for the situation.

PANT MAY LOSE TEST VICE-CAPTAINCY ROLE

NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket selection committee is expected to hold key discussions over Rishabh Pant's role as Test vice-captain when it meets in Guwahati on Tuesday to pick the squads for the upcoming series against Afghanistan. There is a growing view within the BCCI that relieving Pant of leadership responsibilities could help him concentrate more fully on his batting.

According to sources, the 28-year-old wicketkeeper-batter has not looked entirely comfortable in leadership roles, with recent seasons at Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL also being cited as evidence of similar struggles. The feeling among some decision-makers is that added responsibility may be affecting his natural, aggressive batting style.

Pant had previously been entrusted with stand-in captaincy during a Test match against South Africa in Guwahati last November in the absence of Shubman Gill. However, concerns were raised over his tactical decision-making in that game, which has reportedly added to the ongoing internal debate about whether he should continue in a formal leadership position in the red-ball setup.

"Indian cricket cannot afford to lose a match-winner like Pant's batting impact. But there is a view that extra responsibility sometimes affects his decision-making at the crease," a BCCI source said.

The committee is believed to be considering whether allowing Pant to play with greater freedom, without leadership pressure, could help unlock more consistent performances in Tests and ODIs. His form and role in the limited-overs setup are also under review, especially with strong competition from Dhruv Jurel, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan for wicketkeeping slots.

Meanwhile, workload management discussions are also expected to influence selection decisions. Jasprit Bumrah's participation in the Test and ODI series will depend on clearance from the medical team, with indications that he may be rested for the ODIs regardless of fitness status due to workload concerns.

Ponting seen alone on bench after defeat, R Ashwin calls it 'POWERFUL PICTURE'

DHARAMSHALA

Punjab Kings' dismal IPL 2026 campaign took another emotional turn when head coach Ricky Ponting was seen sitting alone in the dugout after the team's defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Dharamshala. The loss marked PBKS's sixth consecutive defeat, pushing them to the brink of elimination from the playoffs race and leaving both players and management searching for answers.

As the match ended, cameras captured Ponting sitting quietly on the bench, reflecting on a campaign that began with promise but has now unraveled in the second half. The visual quickly went viral, with former India spinner R Ashwin calling it a "powerful picture" and expressing empathy for the veteran coach while also pointing out structural issues within the franchise.

Ashwin said Ponting appeared burdened by the team's slide in form and suggested that Punjab Kings had lost control of a strong position in the tournament. He noted that the franchise had been in contention for a top-two finish earlier in the season before their recent collapse.

"I saw a powerful picture on TV after the match. Ricky Ponting was sitting alone in the dugout. He must have a lot going on in his head," Ashwin said, adding that the team had failed to capitalise on home advantage during crucial matches.

Ashwin also questioned Punjab Kings' decision to use multiple home venues—Mullanpur and Dharamshala—arguing that the shift between conditions may have affected consistency. He said differences in pitch behaviour and altitude had a direct impact on performance, especially for young and overseas players adjusting to varying conditions.

He further suggested that established IPL teams benefit from continuity at a single home venue, which helps players adapt better over time.

According to him, Punjab's inability to settle into one environment contributed to their decline during the crucial phase of the season.

IPL 2026: Shreyas Iyer says powerplay collapse cost Punjab Kings the match

DHARAMSHALA

Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer admitted that the match slipped away in the powerplay as Royal Challengers Bengaluru delivered an explosive start and maintained control to secure a 23-run win, sealing their place in the IPL 2026 playoffs. The high-scoring encounter at Dharamshala saw RCB post a commanding 222 for four before restricting PBKS to 199 for eight in their chase.

Iyer pointed to early setbacks as the decisive factor in the contest. He said Punjab Kings failed to capitalize on key moments with the ball and could not break RCB's momentum during the initial overs, which allowed the opposition to build a strong foundation for a big total.

"Obviously, they got off to a great start and then started taking on the bowlers right after the powerplay. I think getting to 222 was a commendable performance and we weren't able to take wickets in the bowling that much, but yeah, I think the match was lost in the powerplay," Iyer said.

The Punjab skipper also rued the early dismissals in the chase, noting that his side's usual strong starts from Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya were missing in this game. He acknowledged his own early wicket as a further setback that disrupted the chase.

"We were three down and the majority of our run scorers were Prabhsimran and Priyansh.

Punjab Kings captain said his side lost the IPL 2026 clash against RCB after failing to take early wickets and losing momentum in the chase

No Government Funding, No RTI: CIC Rules BCCI Is Not a Public Authority

NEW DELHI

In a major ruling with wide implications for sports governance in India, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has held that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is not a "public authority" under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The decision effectively places the world's richest cricket board outside the mandatory disclosure framework of the transparency law.

The order, issued by Information Commissioner P.R. Ramesh, concludes a long-standing legal dispute that has moved through various forums since 2018. Earlier, a CIC bench had declared the BCCI as a public authority, directing it to comply with RTI obligations. However, the matter was later challenged in court and remitted back for fresh examination in line with Supreme Court precedents.

In its latest ruling, the Commission observed that the BCCI does not meet the requirements under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act. It noted that the cricket board is a society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act and was not created by Parliament or established under the Constitution.

The CIC also emphasised that there is no "deep or pervasive control" exercised by the government over the BCCI's functioning. It further highlighted that the board operates independently, generating its own revenue through broadcasting rights, sponsorships, ticket sales, and commercial partnerships, making it financially self-sufficient.

Importantly, the Commission clarified that indirect benefits such as tax exemptions or regulatory concessions cannot be treated as "substantial government financing" under the RTI law. This interpretation played a key role in excluding the BCCI from the Act's ambit.

In its observations, the CIC also referred to the BCCI's evolution into a major global cricketing power driven by India's commercial sports market and the Indian Premier League (IPL). It cautioned against assuming that state control is necessary for accountability in such ecosystems.

Relying on Supreme Court judgments, the ruling reaffirms that the BCCI operates as an independent private entity. The Commission further stated that any alteration to its RTI coverage would need a change in law through legislative action.

IPL 2026: Cooper Connolly Breaks Jayasuriya's IPL Record

DHARAMSHALA

Australian batter Cooper Connolly shattered Sanath Jayasuriya's 18-year-old IPL record despite Punjab Kings' 23-run defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a high-voltage IPL 2026 clash at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala.

Connolly struck three sixes in his 37 off 22 balls, taking his season tally to 32 maximums and surpassing Jayasuriya's long-standing mark of 31 sixes in a debut IPL season set in 2008. The young left-hander has now scored 473 runs in 12 innings at an average of 47.30, emerging as Punjab Kings' most consistent performer this season.

Batting first, RCB posted a commanding 222/4, powered by Virat Kohli's composed 58 and Venkatesh Iyer's explosive unbeaten 73*, which earned him Player of the Match. Tim David's late flourish pushed the total beyond 220.

In reply, Punjab Kings managed 199/8 despite fighting knocks from Shashank Singh and Marcus Stoinis. Rasikh Salam's three-wicket haul and Bhuvneshwar Kumar's early breakthroughs sealed RCB's win and confirmed their place in the IPL 2026 playoffs.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Vihaan Media #85/J, Industrial suburb 2nd stage, Yeshwantpur Extension,Bangalore-560022, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.